

Jordan Times

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Mubarak, Rabin to meet this week

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will hold a summit in Egypt next Tuesday to push forward the Middle East peace process, an official source said Friday. The meeting would be the first between leaders of the two countries in six years. The source, who insisted on anonymity, refused to say where the talks will be held. But they were expected to be in Cairo where Mr. Mubarak will be chairing a congress of his ruling National Democratic Party which opens Monday. He will address it on Wednesday. On Thursday, Mr. Mubarak's spokesman Mohammad Abdul Moneim said the Israeli government's decision to halt the expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories created a "stable climate" for a meeting between the two leaders. Earlier Thursday Israeli Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer ordered officials to stop signing contracts for housing in the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Three sides sign Bosnian ceasefire

LONDON (AP) — Leader of Bosnia's warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims signed an agreement on Friday calling for a two-week ceasefire beginning on Sunday. Lord Carrington, the European Community (EC) mediator, said the agreement also called for heavy weapons to be placed under U.N. supervision, and for refugees to be permitted to return to their homes. Under the weapons provision all sides must "declare and place under international supervision all heavy weapons, combat aircraft, armor, artillery, mortars, rocket launchers, etc.," Lord Carrington said. "We ask the Security Council of the United Nations to make arrangements for this supervision as soon as possible." The agreement came after three days of bilateral talks between the factions and Portuguese diplomat Jose Cutiello. Faction leaders did not meet face-to-face. Lord Carrington said the three sides agreed to further talks in London beginning July 27. This ceasefire, scheduled to begin at 1800 local time on Sunday, was likely to be more durable than other short-lived pacts in the former Yugoslavia because of the agreement on supervising heavy weapons, Lord Carrington told a news conference (earlier story on page 8).

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Israeli-Palestinian compromise resolves Al Najah deadlock

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders and Israeli officials on Friday negotiated an end to a four-day confrontation at the occupied West Bank's largest university, defusing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's first political crisis. The pact called for the expulsion to Jordan of six Palestinian activists who were hiding on the Al Najah University campus. In exchange, the army was to remove its cordon from around the campus, and some 2,500 students and faculty members were to leave after being held up since Tuesday to protest army demands to search students for weapons. Leaders of both sides hoped the compromise would lead to future peace moves, especially ahead of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival on Sunday to accelerate U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks. Washington had urged both sides to resolve the standoff, the first test of the new government of Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister. Faisal Husseini, chief adviser to the Palestinian peace team in Nablus to help with negotiations, said both sides had acted responsibly in resolving the crisis.

Expelled Palestinians arrive

SIX PALESTINIANS, expelled from the Israeli-occupied territories, arrived in Jordan on an emotional welcome Friday at the King Hussein Bridge. The Palestinians were greeted by senior Jordanian and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. The six, all residents of refugee camps around the West Bank city of Nablus, embraced PLO officials and wept as they looked behind and pointed at the mountains of occupied Jerusalem. They were driven in four white vans of the International Committee of the Red Cross and crossed into Jordan around 8:40 p.m. (1740 GMT). A Jordanian army patrol escorted the vans as they crossed the bridge. "I think that wisdom and patience brought about an agreement between the two sides," Mr. Husseini said. "No one wanted this matter, no one wanted to be in this situation before we renew the peace process." He added: "Thank God this has ended, and we hope things will begin moving in the best way." Mr. Rabin, in a televised interview Wednesday night, suggested that the military was at least partially to blame for the impasse by properly preparing for student elections that had drawn hundreds to the campus on Tuesday. "The Al Najah case is a stumbling block created also unwisely by ourselves," he said. "This is a painful moment to have six people separated from their families and their land. On the other hand I am relieved the students will be free after four days of siege." Palestinian peace negotiator Saad Erekat said. The families arrived to say their farewells late on Friday and the army prepared to send the activists across the bridge to Jordan in the custody of the International Red Cross. "They will be turned over to the Red Cross. Their families will say goodbye to them and they will leave for the bridge then," said Maath Nabulsi, head of the Nablis Chamber of Commerce, who helped to mediate.

Hundreds of soldiers besieged the university on Tuesday trying to arrest activists of the 4½-year-old uprising against Israeli rule. The army earlier said it wanted 20 activists, some for murder. Students refused to budge until the army withdrew. On Friday morning, soldiers shot a Palestinian and wounded him in the back during a stone-throwing clash that erupted opposite the campus when troops temporarily lifted a curfew. The curfew was lifted for three hours for the first time since Tuesday to let the town's 130,000 residents buy food and other supplies, troops reimposed it to restore order. Yet as negotiations began bearing fruit, both sides vied hope about future peace moves. "Everybody is interested in giving peace a chance. Everyone is interested in finding a peaceful way out of the crisis and we are not interested in bloodshed," said Mohammad Shaiyeh, administrative director of the Palestinian team to peace talks. "Maybe this is a good sign," agreed Gad Ben-Ari, Mr. Rabin's spokesman. The army had said it believed

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Baker mission seen to focus on confidence-building measures

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian officials are at best cautiously optimistic that the Middle East visit this week of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would lead to "confidence-building" measures in the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process rather than producing major breakthroughs in the laborious nine-month-old peace negotiations. Mr. Baker, who is due in Israel Sunday for talks with the new Labour government led by Yitzhak Rabin, is said to be bringing in some "new ideas of his own" to advance the peace process, and Jordanian officials said they would like to hear the new ideas before making any definite comment. Describing Mr. Baker's visit to the Middle East as a continuous American effort to push the peace process, Jordanian officials said they would first have to hear what the U.S. official has to say before Jordan can respond. "We have to wait and see what Mr. Baker says officially about his plans before we comment," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times Friday in a telephone interview. "This trip comes as a continuation of his previous visits, which indicates his support and interest in pushing forth the peace process, especially in the view of the new circumstances in the Middle East," the minister added in an obvious reference to dramatic change in the Israeli political scene with the victory of the left in last month's general elections. The U.S. embassy in Amman and Jordanian officials said they were unaware of a several-point plan that

Mr. Baker was reportedly bringing with him in a bid to accelerate the peace process. At the same time, Jordanian and Palestinian delegates believe that one of the prime objectives of Mr. Baker's visit is to secure Arab-Israeli agreement on several confidence-building measures. The Baker plan, according to reports published in Thursday's newspapers, included freezing of Israeli settlement building in the populated areas in the occupied territories, giving Israel the \$10 billion loan guarantee to absorb immigrants, setting a date for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab cities, a public Palestinian pledge to stop the four-and-a-half-year intifada, ending the Arab boycott of Israel, and a greater disengagement of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights ahead of demilitarization of the strategic plantations. Commenting on the reports, His Majesty King Hussein told Jordan Television on Thursday that he had no knowledge of the reported plan. "I have no idea of a plan, or new plans for that matter," King Hussein said in comments to reporters upon his return home after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus. "So we will have to wait and see." Mr. Abu Jaber said Mr. Baker's proposals, whatever they are, "will be studied carefully because we are talking about people's lives, property, souls and history." A U.S. embassy spokesman in Amman told the Jordan Times that he was unaware of any Baker "plan," and reiterated the White House line that the purpose of Mr. Baker's visit was "to get the ball (of the peace process) rolling." Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators said they were not worried by suggestions that the Arab sides to the peace talks could come under pressure from the U.S. in view

Violence erupts in Algiers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Gunfire killed one person and wounded six in clashes Friday between police and Muslim fundamentalists as the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) urged Algerians to protest from terms handed down to seven party leaders. Several FIS supporters were arrested during the incidents, the first apparently organised, wide-scale disruptions in several months and the first to use teenagers almost exclusively as protesters. Army helicopters flew over the city after gunfire rang out following weekly prayers in several fundamentalist strongholds, including Bab Al Oued, where at least two people were wounded and one killed, according to officials at Mailliot hospital. Their identities were not revealed. It was not immediately clear who fired the shots there or in Chateaufort, where gunfire punctuated pro-FIS front chants by hundreds of youths after prayers. Police broke up the gathering, chasing them back to the local mosque or down side streets. In the Djeneba Al Mabourk neighbourhood, police fired warning shots to disperse demonstrators and knocked down barricades. Other protests were reported in Al Biar, Bachdjarrh, and Frails Vallon. Hospitals reported at least four other people wounded. A southern suburb of the city, one youth, huddled in a corner as bullets flew overhead, said: "We want to show our anger against an unjust verdict." FIS leaders Abassi Madani, 61, and Ali Belhadj, 35, were each jailed for 12 years last Wednesday on charges of attacks against the state, undermining the economy and distributing tracts. The FIS has issued clandestine communiqués urging Algerians to "express by all their legitimate means their rejection of the verdict levelled against their leaders." The communiqué, signed by the underground party's national information committee, was the first official FIS reaction to the sentencing of its leaders Wednesday. Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj risked the death penalty. Observers viewed the light sentences handed down by the military tribunal in Blida as a bid to prevent renewed fundamentalist rioting. "The FIS calls on the Algerian Muslim people and partisans of the Islamic state to be at a rendezvous with history in expressing their refusal of the unjust trial and verdicts," he front's communiqué said.

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His Majesty King Hussein condoles Sherif Ghazi Ben Rakan Ben Nasser at the funeral Friday of Sherif Ghazi's son Sherif Rakan (Petra photo)

Sherif Rakan Ghazi, teammate laid to rest

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Ben Ali, was born in Amman on August 30, 1965. He received his elementary and secondary education in Britain and studied air aviation management at Embri-Riddle College in Florida, the United States. In becoming a pilot, Sherif Rakan was continuing a family tradition with passion and dedication. His father, Sherif Ghazi Nasser, was a member of the Hashemite Diamond team and his grandfather was a fighter pilot in Iraq. Sherif Rakan obtained his private pilot licence at the age of 16 in Jordan and later received his commercial flying licence in the United States. After completing his studies in Florida, Sherif Rakan joined the Royal Falcons but was persuaded by his parents to fly business jets. So he left the Royal Falcons and flew with the Arab Wings air charter company as a first officer for a year. Sherif Rakan later joined the Royal Flight of King Hussein as a junior first officer. He then worked for Royal Jordanian as a first officer. In 1990, Sherif Rakan was part of the crew that flew the Falcon of Jordan to victory in the Malaysia International Air Race. RJ's Airbus aircraft did not satisfy Sherif Rakan's passion for flying the sky with his aerobics plane. His eyes were still on that little Pitt of the Royal Falcons. Last year he rejoined the Royal Falcons. Friends of Sherif Rakan remember him as a dedicated, diligent and caring man. Flying was his greatest passion but he also enjoyed motorcycling, reading about aviation and camping in the desert of Jordan. He died doing the thing he loved most. Sherif Rakan is survived by his parents, three sisters, wife and a three-year-old daughter.

Sherif Rakan Ghazi (1965-92)

Jordan, Syria define joint front in peace talks

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Thursday was "very successful" in defining the objectives and basic principles which will guide the two country's approaches to the upcoming round of Middle East peace negotiations with Israel, a senior Jordanian official said Friday. The official, who accompanied King Hussein on his trip, told the Jordan Times that the two leaders also discussed reconciliation efforts among Arab states in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis; "but there were no conclusive results on this issue." "The two leaders talked about the situation in the Arab World but there were no concrete results," the official said. But, he added, Syria and Jordan both believe that the state of affairs among Arab states is "not healthy to say the least." In an interview with Jordan Television Thursday, King Hussein said that his trip to Syria was a "very good visit" during which President Assad and himself spoke "candidly and frankly of all matters in the region and the world." The King said that it was natural for him to take up an opportunity to consult with the Syrian leadership and it afforded both leaders the chance to discuss issues of common concern to the two countries. "It was a good opportunity to resume contacts with our brother

Clinton gains huge lead after Perot quits race

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Clinton headed for the nation's heartland Friday, striving to topple President George Bush with help from the abandoned army of Ross Perot. "This is our chance to change America. Let's take it," said the Democratic candidate. With a whopping 23-percentage-point lead over Mr. Bush in new nationwide polls, Mr. Clinton told the Democratic National Committee in a post-convention meeting that he was eager "to get out there where we can see people, where people can see us." One of his first objectives: wooing supporters of Texas billionaire Perot, who unexpectedly abandoned the race a day earlier. "People want change, but government is in the way," Mr. Clinton said in an impassioned, personal speech Thursday night accepting the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. For Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton had this simple message: "If you won't use your power to help people, step aside — I will." The speech — all 52 minutes of

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Saddam calls on Iraqis not to sacrifice dignity despite hardships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein, defiant in the face of a renewed standoff with the United Nations, told Iraqis on Friday not to sacrifice their dignity in pursuit of an easy life. Addressing the country on the anniversary of the 1968 coup that brought the Baath Party to power, president said they should not expect an early lifting of the economic blockade imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But he made no direct reference to the row with the Security Council over Iraq's refusal to let U.N. inspectors into the agricultural ministry to look for evidence relating to its weapons programmes. "We should not compromise our dignity in pursuit of an easy life," he said, in an apparent reference to Iraq's continued rejection of tough U.N. conditions

for it to resume limited oil exports to buy food and medicine. "The deeper the wound in the body, the greater the growth of the spirit." President Saddam, in the televised address, denounced the U.N. as a tool of American policy. President Saddam, speaking before the arrival of a senior U.N. troubleshooter, said that American hegemony "had diminished the role of the United Nations." "The international organisation has turned into a sort of advertising board for the will and interests of American policy." Iraq was repeatedly called for a lifting of sanctions saying it has complied with most of the conditions spelled out in the ceasefire resolutions that halted last year's Gulf war after the ejection of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. But President Saddam told Iraqis that whatever they did the blockade was unlikely to be lifted. "There will be no decision to lift sanctions even if Iraq does more than it has already done," he said, adding that the blockade would "wear out" in the face of their own resolve. He stressed that the impact of the embargo "will weaken and eventually perish as the hands and brains of the blessed people of Mesopotamia are put to work to further our scientific and economic achievements." He said the sanctions were not biting as hard as the United States had hoped. "We're constantly offering new job opportunities through giant projects," saving the Iraqis from poverty, he said. Another factor which would help render the sanctions futile was "increasing opposition from

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Government opposes Senate move to bar teachers from political parties

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government will lobby against a proposal by 20 members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) to ban teachers and employees of the Ministry of Education from membership in political parties, a senior Jordanian official said Friday. The official, who asked not to be identified, told the Jordan Times the government cannot accept this proposal because it is "undemocratic" and will only serve to delay the legalisation of political parties, and create dissent among political groupings which have accepted the law as it was passed by the Lower House. The Senate, appointed by His Majesty King Hussein by Royal Decree, began debating the political parties law Thursday after it was referred to by the Lower House which endorsed the draft legislation in an unusually short time after heads of the different House

blocs met with the government to reach compromise solutions on main points of contention. In its present shape, the law represents a compromise solution between the government and the different political blocs in the House after the initial meetings of parliament over the law threatened to turn into endless debate over every member's opinion of its different articles. The law guarantees citizens over 18 years of age the right to political activity, but it also limits that activity away from government-owned buildings and institutions of education. The government, according to the official, believes that there are enough control measures to guard against educational institutions being turned into centres of political activity. But it also wants to safeguard an individual's right to express his or her political views through political parties. "A law cannot be passed where it quarantines peoples' minds," the official explained. "The law as it stands already stipulates that schools and institutions of education cannot be used for political activity but we cannot stop people from thinking." "We will do everything to ensure that the law remains as it came from the Lower House on this particular point and that there are no unnecessary delays in the passing of the law," the official said. According to the internal statutes of the House, a draft law which gains approval from the Lower House is referred to the Senate House for final discussion before a royal decree is issued putting the terms of the law into effect. If the law is amended by the Senate or rejected outright it is returned to the Lower House where the amendments are debated again. If the House rejects the Senate's changes and insists on its position then the law goes to a joint session of the two houses for a final vote. The law would then need a two-thirds combined majority

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Israel hopes for U.S. help to get overflight rights for El Al in Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One of the hopes Israel apparently attaches to this week's visit to the Middle East of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is to advance its effort to clear the way for flights to Asia and the Far East by its national carrier, according to informed sources.

Israel signed aviation agreements with at least two countries in the past three months (in addition to previous agreements with several others), but has been unable to launch flights since the Arab states would not grant El Al permission to fly through their airspace.

Contacts between some of the Asian countries and Israel have revealed that the Jewish state is pinning hopes that American intervention could help it reach agreement with the Arab states on El Al overflights, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"The latest that we have been informed of is that Israel is hoping to conclude formal arrangements for Asian and Far Eastern flights shortly after Mr. Baker's visit to the region," said a non-Arab aviation source.

Saudi Arabia is among the Arab countries included in this week's visit of Mr. Baker, who is paying his first visit to the Middle East in eight months.

El Al flights to Asia and the Far East are not only politically symbolic for Israel, which has scored success in ending its diplomatic isolation with non-Muslim countries as well as India and China in the wake of the launching of the Middle East peace process in October last

year. They are also important in furthering Israel's tourism campaign.

"El Al flights to India and China are priorities for Israel since they would allow for increased exchange of visits and boost tourism to the Holy Land," noted one source. In the absence of overflight agreements with the Arab states, El Al has been unable to take advantage of its new-found destinations and tap the tourism potential, including visits to the Holy Land from the 60-million or so Christian community in India.

Highly-placed sources in the Gulf said none of the Arab states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) wanted to be the first to allow El Al overflights.

Indirect contacts are continuing between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which dominates the GCC, but Riyadh is adopting a position that any overflight agreement with El Al depended on the position of the Arab states directly involved in the conflict with the Jewish state.

"Saudi Arabia has told Israel through third-party mediators that while it had no objection in principle to an agreement, any firm arrangement depended on Israel reaching accords with other Arab countries," said one source.

Israelis now use either Cairo, Nairobi (Kenya) or any of the European airports to fly to Asia and the Far East in the absence of direct El Al flights. An option available to El Al is to fly northwards to Turkey and then Uzbek

airports before coming down to China and India, but it would be very expensive for the airline in terms of fuel costs and overflight charges, industry sources say.

Egypt introduces death penalty for 'terrorism'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has passed a controversial law introducing the death penalty for members of "terrorist" groups in any attempt to stem a rising tide of violence involving Muslim militants.

The 454-seat People's Assembly adopted the bill late on Thursday after adding a clause giving an amnesty to people who break all links with such groups within the next month.

The new measures, voted on article by article over two days, provide a broad definition of "terrorism" that includes "spreading panic" or obstructing the work of state authorities.

Militants ready to use violence to establish a stricter Islamic state have clashed repeatedly with police and Christians in Upper Egypt since March and shot dead a prominent anti-fundamentalist writer in Cairo in June.

More than 30 people — Christians, police, militants and innocent bystanders — have been killed in the unrest.

Egypt has the death penalty for murder, drug trafficking and rape and more than a dozen people are executed every year.

The new law provides the death penalty or life imprisonment for leaders or members of "terrorist" groups and for anyone who supplies such an organisation with money, weapons or information.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki told parliament the law was the minimum action needed to deal with extremist violence.

"We must all realise that we are facing a permanent danger, a group of people belonging to terrorist groups whose aim is to topple the government, suspend the constitution and sabotage the economy," he said.

Opposition members and independents spoke against the measures, saying a clause allowing police to hold suspects for 24 hours before getting an arrest warrant violated the constitution.

Twenty-three members of the assembly, which is overwhelmingly dominated by members and supporters of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), signed a petition opposing the law.

Islamic fundamentalists writing in newspapers also rejected it on the grounds that it contradicted Islamic law.

The law adds articles to existing legislation such as the penal code, criminal prosecution procedure, and laws on secret bank accounts and possession of weapons.

Government supporters called for special anti-terrorist laws after militants massacred 14 people, 13 of them Christians, in and around a militant-dominated village near the university town of Assiut, 325 kilometres south of Cairo.

Late in the debate, the NDP introduced the extra clause offering a pardon to members of militant groups if they lay down their arms and reveal their identities to the authorities within a month of the new law taking effect.

The interior minister told parliament this clause would not apply to people already detained during a massive police operation in villages around Assiut.

The law supplements the wide powers, including the right to detain people without trial, which Egyptian security forces already have under a state of emergency introduced after Muslim militants assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

In a bid to fight the use of youngsters as go-betweens and look-outs for militants, the new law allows children under 15 to be tried in the state-security court rather than juvenile courts.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerians claim \$24 billion from France

ALGIERS (R) — Thirty years after Algeria's war of independence against France, victims of the conflict want the French government to pay 100 billion francs (\$19.90 billion) in reparations. Algerian state television on Thursday quoted the National Association of War Victims as saying: "The association is claiming from France payment of 100 billion French francs." It wants reparation for all the people and property affected by the bloody conflict which took place between 1954 and 1962, television said. No accurate figures are available for the dead, wounded or tortured during the conflict but Algeria says one and a half million Algerians died. Foreign historians put the figure at around 400,000. Human bones continue to be dug up near locations which Algerians say French troops used for interrogation and torture.

Turkish policeman killed in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — Gunmen fatally wounded a Turkish policeman in Ankara, Turkish Television said on Friday. The assailants escaped after the Thursday night shooting in the outlying working-class district of Abidinpaşa. There were no claims of responsibility but police are favourite targets of far-left Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), Turkey's deadliest urban guerrilla group.

U.N. gives free meals to Moroccan children

RABAT (R) — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) gave Morocco \$11 million Thursday to finance a primary school feeding project in the 1992-93 academic year. Catherine Bertini, WFP's executive director, told a news conference the project would provide lunches for 1,425,000 children on 140 days. It was the largest WFP school feeding programme in the world and has been operative in Morocco for 15 years, she said. The WFP runs six projects in rural areas of Morocco currently worth about \$100 million.

Chapters from 'Mein Kampf' translated into Hebrew

TEL AVIV (AP) — Chapters of Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" have been published in Israel in Hebrew translation, a professor involved in the project said Friday. The publication raised anger among some Israelis, including journalist Noah Klinger of the daily Yedioth Ahrooth who said Friday that Hitler's words should never have been printed in Hebrew. The 130-page annotated booklet is largely aimed at students of German history, said Moshe Zimmermann, who teaches the subject at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "Somebody who is studying history has to know the facts. As long as not everybody in Israel can study German in secondary schools, we have to provide translations," Mr. Zimmermann said. Four hundred copies of the booklet were printed by Akademon, the university's student press. Mr. Zimmermann said.

Israeli colonel disciplined

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army chief formally reprimanded a former senior commander in the occupied Gaza Strip for ordering severe beatings of Arab demonstrators in 1988, the army said on Friday. "The chief of staff ordered Colonel Efi Fein to appear before him last night," an army statement said. "He reprimanded the officer, as advised by the chief legal officer." Army investigators suspected that Col. Fein, former Gaza commander of the Givati infantry unit, issued orders to beat Arab demonstrators severely in the first weeks of the 4-1/2-year-old intifada, military sources said. He also allegedly took part in the beatings himself. Officers who served in Gaza in 1987-88 testified that the orders originated with Col. Fein's superiors, acting at the direction of Yitzhak Rabin, then defence minister and now prime minister and defence minister. Mr. Rabin, said in early 1988 a policy of "might, power and beatings" would crush the uprising.

Several injured in Mauritania opposition march

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Several people were injured when Mauritania police broke up an angry opposition crowd marching towards the presidential palace, witnesses said. There were conflicting reports on who started the violence at a Thursday night rally by the West African country's main opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces-New Era (UPD-ERE Nouvelle). Some witnesses said crowds started jeering at police and throwing stones, then started marching on the palace of President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya, when riot police charged with tear-gas. Others said the police charge was unprovoked.

Environment report bleak on Gulf situation

NORFOLK (AP) — A research vessel sent to study the environmental impact of the oil spill in the Gulf during last year's war has returned with a sober assessment: It will take decades for Gulf beaches to recover. The Mount Mitchell, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, was welcomed home Wednesday after a six-month mission.

The agency's John H. Robinson, the federal government's top expert on oil spills, said it will take decades for the devastated Saudi Arabian coast to recover. "I think that's the best we can pin it down at this point," Mr. Robinson said.

Up to 350 million gallons of oil were believed dumped into the Gulf during the war. Mr. Robinson described Saudi Arabia's Gulf beaches as virtually lifeless, with sea grasses wasted and crabs and other marine crea-

tures gone. Along the Kuwaiti coast, coral reefs are about 90 per cent destroyed, he said.

The Mount Mitchell reached the area in mid-February about a year after the war. "We were amazed that a year later it was as bad as it was," Mr. Robinson said.

The situation is far between offshore. The scientists made 180 dives off the Saudi coast and found oil only three times, he said.

Experts will meet in January to go over their findings. Participating in the mission were 140 scientists from 15 nations.

Mr. Robinson was the government's science coordinator for studying the Exxon Valdez disaster, the worst oil spill in the United States. Nearly 11 million gallons of Alaskan crude spilled in Prince William Sound in the spring of 1989.

Families of missing Iranians appeal for their release

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The families of four Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon 10 years ago and believed killed issued a new plea Friday for word on their fate after the saga of other foreign hostages has been resolved.

The appeal was made in a half-page advertisement published in the independent newspaper Al Nahar along with pictures of the four Iranian victims.

"When will the first of the hostages be released?" The ad said.

The missing Iranians include Ahmad Motevaselian, 40, commander of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard contingent based in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The others are Charge d'Affaires Mousavi, 36; Kazem Akhavan, 34, a photographer for Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, and Mohammad Taghi Rastegar Moqadam, 35, an embassy driver.

The ad said: "We, the mothers, wives and children of the Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon, appeal to the international community and consci-

ence of humanity to look with the same eye at the issue of the hostages and undertake serious efforts to release our loved ones like the Western hostages."

The families complained that the Westerners "have returned to their families while our hearts still suffer from the agony of their captivity."

The four are widely believed to have been seized and killed at a rightist militia checkpoint early in July 1982, as they drove in an Iranian embassy car through Lebanon's Christian heartland towards Syria.

Iran has frequently asked the United States and Britain to help shed light on their fate in exchange for Iran's efforts on behalf of the Western hostages the last of whom were freed last month.

The United States and militia officials have separately said they have information that the Iranians were all dead.

In all, 92 foreigners were kidnapped in Lebanon over the past decade and held for periods varying from a few hours to nearly seven years.

Compromise ends campus deadlock

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20 wanted activists were on campus but Palestinians said there were only three to five.

Leading Palestinians, including trustees of the university board and Nablus officials, acted as go-betweens presenting ideas from both the students and Israeli authorities.

Washington and the United Nations have in the past denounced Israel for expelling Palestinians.

Palestinians identified the six activists as Majid Al Masri, Nasser Awes, Yasser Badwi, Abdullah Daoud, Bilal Idwikat and Muhammad Taieem, all from re-

fugee camps near Nablus. They will be allowed back after three years.

Police questioned two Palestinian peace delegates for an hour on Friday about their meeting with Yasser Arafat last month.

Spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi were summoned by police to answer questions about the televised meeting between Mr. Arafat and 17 members of the Palestinian team.

Dr. Ashrawi said she declined to answer questions about the subjects of their talks, telling reporters: "I have the right not to be interrogated while the two sides are negotiating."

Protests erupt in Algiers

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On the night of the military court sentencing on Wednesday, gunfire echoed through Algiers for over an hour.

Algiers radio reported more "warning shots" on Thursday night to break up would-be demonstrators. No casualties were reported.

The FIS urged to oppose what it called the "despotic junta of power" which it said had fired its "last shell" in holding the trial.

Signed by fugitive Abdul Razak Radjan, the statement did not say what the FIS meant by "legitimate means." Its extremists have been widely blamed for killing some 80 members of the security force since mid-February.

"Algerian Muslim people. Be faithful to your religion, your history and your children who today pay the supreme sacrifice of their lives, money and liberty, in order to free you from despotism," the statement said.

Government opposes Senate move

(Continued from page 1)

believes that the rationale behind denying judges and the armed forces membership in political parties does not equally apply to teachers.

"Judges are arbitrators between political and the government in case of conflict," the senior official explained.

"Therefore it is necessary that they remain politically neutral." And in the case of the security forces, the official said, "they are the protectors of the Constitution."

But as far as teachers are concerned, the government feels that they are also members of the society who do have their own grievances and need to address these grievances within the framework of political activity.

"We know that they are underprivileged and frustrated and therefore they cannot be alienated from the political process," the official said. "That would be undemocratic."

He said that the fears expressed by the senators Thursday of schools turning into bastions of political activity is sufficiently covered by the law and any concern of teachers declaring their opinions in classrooms "can be controlled administratively."

"Our task is to ensure that a teacher does not preach political activity at the school but no more than that," he said.

The official also pointed out that the political parties law already denies membership to citizens who are not 18 years old or older and that on its own will control political activism in schools.

As for universities, the senior official said it would be "unusual" to ask the students to be politically neutral.

"It would be stopping the natural process of life." However, the law does ban parties from recruiting students on campus and maintains any presence in buildings used for educational purposes.

The official said that the government understood that most of the senators are educators who have had first-hand experience with schools in the Kingdom "and are justifiably worried," but that worry does not justify denying full-fledged citizens their right to exercise their political opinions.

In Thursday's Senate meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thougban Hindawi warned against delaying the law beyond this extraordinary session and in turn denying political parties the time to prepare themselves popularly before the 1993 national elections.

Demonstrators attack El Al

ISTANBUL (AP) — Demonstrators shouting "Down with Israel," and "Jew go home," attacked an El Al office Thursday as Israel's president visited Istanbul, police said.

Nearly 100 demonstrators hurled rocks shattering windows of the Israeli airline's office in midtown Istanbul, state radio reported.

There were no injuries and the demonstrators dispersed after about 10 minutes, police said.

Two demonstrators were arrested on charges of damaging property, police said.

President Chaim Herzog, the first Israeli president to visit Turkey, arrived Wednesday night to join Turkey's Jewish community in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in Istanbul after their expulsion from Spain.

Mr. Herzog was speaking at Istanbul's oldest synagogue, Neve Shalom, during the stoning incident, which occurred near the synagogue.

Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

Significantly, the data showed Mr. Clinton winning back Democrats who had defected to Mr. Perot. Mr. Clinton also was viewed by the electorate as more likely to change government than Mr. Bush.

"It's a long way to November," Mr. Clinton said as he left the podium, mindful that Michael Dukakis left Atlanta four years ago way ahead of Mr. Bush, only to lose in a landslide.

His convention over, Mr. Clinton on Friday began what is suddenly a two-man general election race, pitting a 45-year-old governor born to a small town widow against a 68-year-old incumbent president born to privilege.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

to get Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention and freeze settlement activity for something in return from the Arabs and Palestinians, like ending the Arab boycott of Israel. Jordanian and Palestinian officials do not expect the Arabs to abruptly end the boycott, but that it could be done gradually so that Israel would indeed freeze the settlements and comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention as a form of confidence-building measure before negotiations resume.

Palestinian sources have said that a gradual end to the boycott is already taking place. They cited reports from the West Bank that Israel has linked telephone lines to most of the Arab countries, except for Jordan and Syria.

The Palestinian sources also expect that the new Israeli government would freeze settlement activity and call for Palestinian elections before the end of the year. There are already reports that some Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions have started campaigns for the elections.

Statements by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's advisor Nabil Shaath that the Palestinians would withdraw from the peace process if the U.S. granted the loan guarantees to Israel indicated to Palestinian delegates that Dr. Shaath must have had some information or signals from the Americans that Israel would not get the loan guarantees until it stops settlement activities in the occupied territories.

"I believe that Mr. Baker will actually freeze all settlement activity in the occupied territories," said a Palestinian official from the Palestinian People's Party involved in the peace talks.

The official, who did not want to be identified, also said he expected that Mr. Baker would acquire a commitment from the Arab parties to end the Arab boycott, though gradually.

"I believe that Mr. Baker would get a commitment from both the Israeli and Arab sides that gradual steps would be taken towards such confidence-building measures during this visit so that the next round of talks would have meaningful progress," said a Palestinian source.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 772111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les petites histoires presque vraies
18:30 Les Tortues Ninja
18:50 La Gymnastique
19:00 News in French
19:15 L'Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Super Bloopers
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Saturday variety show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Raining"

PRAYER TIMES

04:04 Fajr
05:36 Sunrise (Doha)
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian Interdenominational Church Tel. 683265
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 628254, 629292
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16 / 30
Aqaba 24 / 37
Deserts 15 / 33

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 30, Aqaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890304
Dr. Rami Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Wael Duman 774800
Dr. Husein Hadadi 731267
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 632672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649415
Smeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mawda Gharaibeh (—)
Al Saeed pharmacy (278625)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yehya Al Tarifi (—)
Khaleef pharmacy 953417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 892228
Blood Bank 773221
Highway Police 643042
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 615800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642862
Melba, J. Amn. 656140
Palestine, Shamsi 661714
Shamsi 661714
University Hospital 661714
Al-Hussein Hospital 667227
The Islamic, Abadi 661227
Al-Ahli, Abadi 661646
Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751126
Army, Marika 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224058
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hussein Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:
Princess Beena Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222225
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Jarkara, Khash Lappeh, (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:35 Dhahran (RJ)
08:35 London (RJ)
08:35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
08:35 Jerusalem (RJ)
08:35 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
08:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
08:35 Cairo (RJ)
08:35 Damascus (RJ)
08:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:35 London (RJ)
08:35 Athens (RJ)
08:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:35 Colombo (RJ)
08:35 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
08:35 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
08:35 Larnaca (RJ)
08:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:35 Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Cyprus (CY)
08:15 Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

11:30 Sudan (TY)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:45 Dubai (EA)
12:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:

Belgian students meet ministers and mingle with community, enriching their stay and study in Jordan

By Mona Ghannem
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an effort to "have another view than what is seen in Belgium," as Belgian medical student Laurent Taymans puts it, the Olivaint Conference of Belgium (OCB), a group of approximately 25 university students, is currently visiting Jordan to learn about the country.

According to an OCB publication, the group was originally founded in France in 1975 and branched out to Belgium in 1985 with the intention of providing university students complementary training to their education. The OCB is a non-profit organisation, independent of religious or political parties, which aims to enhance students' political, economic, social and cultural knowledge of the world.

More specifically, the OCB travels each summer to a different country where the students attend meetings and interact with local figures and members of the community. The trip is sponsored by enterprises and banks in Belgium and under the support of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This year, the group was invited on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Arab Youth Forum (AYF) President Abdallah Kanaana to see what Dr. Adnan Hamawi, organiser of foreign affairs at the AYF, called "our way of living and thinking and our cultural and

political system." Dr. Hamawi stressed the importance of the exchange, noting that Jordan can benefit through the opportunity to "communicate with the world."

In preparation for the trip to Jordan, OCB members began in Belgium by meeting with Belgian and Jordanian officials for a basic orientation. On their own, the students researched and studied their respective topics in Belgium, presenting their findings to the conference. By coming to Jordan, they hope to compare and contrast their findings, as well as obtain new and additional information. Upon return to Belgium, each student will write a 25-page report to be published in Belgium and distributed to the OCB's various sponsors, members of the public and several colleges and universities.

Although topics are diverse, ranging from the Jordanian economy to Jordanian arts, Patrick Rubens, president of OCB and a graduate of law now studying philosophy, emphasises the Palestinian issue as a priority subject, particularly with the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"Olivaint wants to give Belgian students an open-minded way of thinking to enrich themselves," said Mr. Rubens, pointing out that the purpose of the trip is "to learn about (another) culture."

Valerie Cosse, a member of OCB and a civil engineering student, feels the trip is a chance to "meet other people and learn

about another culture and system."

"We see what the tourists cannot see," said Ms. Cosse, explaining the OCB's advantage. "We go to ministries and meetings which give us the opportunity to talk to other people."

With several activities on the agenda, planned in cooperation with the AYF, the OCB members will have numerous chances to interact with Jordanian officials and community members. Since their arrival on Sunday evening, the students have already met with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, Lower and Upper House Parliament speakers, Information Minister Mahmoud Shari and representatives of the Ministry of Justice; they have also visited the city of Jerash, the Baqa and Jerash refugee camps and an SOS village.

During the remainder of their stay, until the end of July, the students will be accompanied by AYF guides to the ministries of industry and trade, energy and agriculture, various universities, factories and companies, societies, monuments and press associations, as well as tourist sites at Petra, Ajlun, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea.

In response to Jordan so far, Mr. Rubens, speaking on behalf of OCB members, said that "Everybody is really impressed with the hospitality" of the country and Mr. Taymans noted "a lot of curiosity towards culture and religion" on the part of the visiting students.



Queen Noor and Laila Sharaf listen to poems at the first poetry reading of the Jerash Festival

Queen attends festival poetry reading

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, who formally opened the 11th Jerash Festival for culture and arts on Wednesday, has attended the first poetry reading session at the Jerash Festival.

Accompanied by senate member Laila Sharaf, the Queen listened to poetry by Ibrahim Nasrallah, Shawqi Brei, Ali Jasfar Al Ailaq and Nayef Abu Obaid.

The poems tackled the general situation in the Arab World, dwelling on the social and political aspects as well as living conditions.

The poetry sessions continue at Jerash Friday and Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, while other cultural programmes continue at Jerash.

For the first time since its inception, the Jerash Festival this year has no foreign folkloric groups. Only those from Jordan and the Arab World are participating in the event presenting poetry, songs, music and other folk performances.

The activities of the Jerash Festival this year take place in several Jordanian cities due to the temporary closure of the road to Jerash, which is being reconstructed. But the festival's organising committee has reached agreement with a local bus transport company for trips to Jerash along other routes leading to the ancient site.

According to festival director Akram Masarweh, the festival will remain as a meeting ground for cultural and artistic troupes from different countries of the world.

Queen Noor who has been keen on opening the annual events, issued a statement on the opening that noted that apart from the cultural benefits, the festival is an occasion for families to share outdoor activities, to enjoy the performances of talented artists and craftspeople and to interact with people from other cultures in a spirit of understanding, friendship and peace.

Zarqa doctors freed on bail, Batayneh affirms ministry stand

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five doctors held in connection with a post-surgery death of a woman in hospital have been released on bail pending the formal presentation of the case to the court in what appears to be part of a cleansing drive by the Ministry of Health at its various hospitals.

The doctors, some of whom no longer work at the Zarqa government hospital where the death occurred in December 1991, were freed on a bail of JD 1,000 each Thursday. One of them spent five days in prison, while two others spent two days and the last one day.

Seven doctors — five of them obstetricians and two of them anaesthetists — are involved in the case. One of them is working in Tafelch and was not detained, and the seventh was considered a "material witness" rather than a direct defendant in the case.

"All investigations are complete and the case has been referred to court," said Minister of Health Aref Batayneh, adding that the ministry took the step to initiate legal proceedings in line with the findings of inquiries conducted by a special panel. It was not immediately known when the court will begin hearings.

Versions of the case from different sources varied. But the basic facts of the affair appeared to be: At 10.30 a.m. on Dec. 30, 1991, a pregnant woman was admitted to the Zarqa government hospital after she spent two days in a private hospital, partly in labour. The woman who suffered from eclampsia — toxic hypertension which brings about high blood pressure — underwent caesarean surgery around 11 p.m. on Dec. 31, about 36 hours after

she was admitted. She died about two hours later.

According to medical sources, caesarean is indicated as most immediate in cases of pre-eclampsia because high blood pressure precludes normal delivery.

The main contention in the Zarqa case appears to be why the accepted practice of immediate surgery was not followed while all indications showed the patient suffering from pre-eclampsia; and why she was not moved into intensive care immediately after surgery.

Absence of proper facilities, shortage of staff at the hospital at the particular night as a result of transportation problems caused by heavy snowstorms, a "mix-up of files," and administration of wrong treatment were among arguments cited in defence of the doctors involved.

According to sources, the Ministry of Health has been implementing a series of "corrective measures" at its various hospitals and health centres, but much more remains to be done. Part of the ministry measures included "punishment transfers" of several staff members from the Zarqa hospital, where the death of the pregnant woman was not exactly an isolated case, said the sources.

"Negligence on the part of doctors was established" by the special committee of the Ministry of Health which investigated the death and that it was in line with this finding that legal proceedings were launched against the doctors, Dr. Batayneh said.

despite the shortcomings at the hospital.

"I cannot simply ignore the finding of the committee since negligence is not something that we can accept in the ministry, which has about 18,000 employees," the minister told the Jordan Times.

"Anybody can make genuine mistakes," said Dr. Batayneh, who took over the Ministry of Health in November last year after serving as head of the Royal Medical Services of the Armed Forces. "I hope they (the doctors involved in the Zarqa case) are innocent and I sympathise with them. But we cannot accept or permit laxity by any member of our staff."

Mohammad Ishaq Maraqa, president of the Jordan Medical Association, which groups all practising doctors in the Kingdom, said the JMA was "closely following the case to ensure that all proper laws are applied."

The accused, as and when formally charged in court, will have their own lawyers. The JMA does not offer that kind of services to its members, Dr. Maraqa said.

"We are not a defence council for doctors," he told the Jordan Times. "If we start acting like one, then there will not be an end to it."

Inadvertently or not, Dr. Maraqa appeared to have put his finger on a glaring gap in Jordan's medical services — insurance against malpractice suits against doctors.

Legal experts say that Jordanian law provides for compensation to be paid to a patient if it is proved that he or she was a victim of medical malpractice or negligence. The compensation should be paid either by the concerned hospital or the doctor involved.

UNRWA to issue new registration cards as time-saving measure

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency of Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has announced that it will issue new registration cards as a time-saving measure.

Operations and who are in need of UNRWA's services to have access to them. Amalgamating the registration categories will cut out time-consuming procedures which are no longer useful," said Angela Williams, UNRWA director of relief and social services.

New registration cards will show the name, date of birth and the relationship of each family member to head of family. The cards will be issued to Palestine refugees living in the agency's five fields of operation over the next few months.

"R" category refugees were Palestine refugees and their descendants who were assumed to be living in the agency's areas of operation, not earning adequate income to support themselves, were not employed by UNRWA or had not benefited from UNRWA scholarships or training.

"N" category refugees were people who were assumed to be absent from the agency's area of operations, who earned an adequate income or had benefited from UNRWA scholarships or training in a training centre or were one of the economic "projects" of the 1950's.

RJ Geographic Centre aims for regional status

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC), built and equipped with French aid, is striving to attain regional training centre status for science training benefiting Jordanian as well as personnel from other Arab countries according to Okla Duheimat, the centre's director general.

In a statement Friday, Dr. Duheimat said that several Arab states have already nominated the centre to serve as a regional institute for survey science in view of its potentials and experiences.

The centre, which has been operational for the past ten years, continues to offer high level training to people from Jordan and the Arab World in cartography, aerial photography and other related skills noted Dr. Duheimat. He said that plans are under way to transform the centre into a community college awarding graduates diplomas recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Apart from training personnel, the centre started in to produce in 1988 various types of maps for schools and government offices, employing such modern techniques as remote sensing, computers and other skills, he noted.

Contacts are underway between the centre and various concerned government institutions to pave the way for cooperation in enabling the centre to help the country locate surface and underground water resources for agriculture, reclaiming unused land, searching for mineral

wealth, reducing desertification, and dealing with environmental pollution, noted Dr. Duheimat.

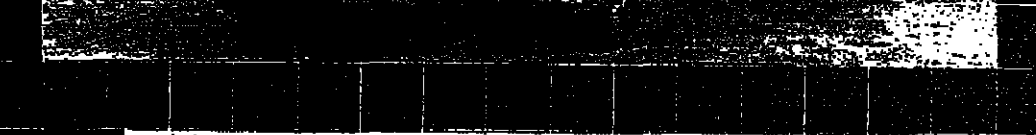
He said the centre has reached agreement with government departments to set up special task forces to put into force any agreement on cooperation in map-related matters and other fields, Dr. Duheimat said. Cooperation with the Arab World was going on well and in the past few months a Libyan envoy arrived at the centre to coordinate training courses for Libyan personnel.

Later, the centre signed a contract for the training of Yemeni personnel and the coming few days are expected to witness further cooperation with other Arab states, noted Dr. Duheimat.

Six youths invited to Japan

Six Jordanian youths have been invited by the Japanese government to participate in the "International Youth Village," an international youth exchange programme, to be held from July 19 to August 6, 1992, in Tateyama City and Tokyo.

The programme, where 150 young people from 18 countries are invited, aims at promoting mutual understanding and international friendship among the youth of various countries.



مجموعة شباب أردنية من الطلاب المشاركين في برنامج "قرية الشباب الدولية" في اليابان

شارع الجامعة - عمارة القنصل ستر - ت ٩٦٤٢٠١ فاكس ٩٦٤٢٠٢ عمان - الأردن

كلارك SWEIFIYEH Tel. 827105

PSD amends travel schedules

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday announced new amendments to the travel schedules of people wishing to visit the occupied West Bank.

Under the new amendment people who booked to travel Monday July 20 through Arwa Bint Al Hareth and Yacoub Hashem schools and Um Salama school in Salt, will have to travel Sunday July 19.

People who were supposed to travel on Tuesday and Wednesday July 21 to 22 respectively will have to travel Monday and Tuesday.

People who booked to travel Thursday July 23 through Arwa Bint Al Hareth and Yacoub Hashem schools as well as Um Salama school in Salt will have to travel on Tuesday July 21.

However, people who booked for Thursday July 23 through Al Israa school, Zarqa camp police station and Najda (riot) police centre in Irbid, are now to travel on Wednesday July 22.

People who booked to travel on Sunday July 26 will now have to travel on Wednesday July 22, and those who booked for Monday July 27 will have to travel on Thursday July 23. Those who booked for travel on Tuesday through Arwa Bint Al Hareth and Yacoub Hashem schools

and Um Salama school will have to travel Thursday July 23. Passengers booking for Tuesday and Wednesday July 28 and 29 will have to travel Sunday July 26 to 27.

Bookings for Thursday July 30 were advanced to Monday July 27, and bookings made for travel on Sunday August 2 through Arwa Bint Al Hareth and Yacoub Hashem schools and Um Salama school in Salt were advanced to Monday July 27.

However, bookings made for Sunday August 2 through Al Israa school, Zarqa camp police station and the Najda police centre were advanced to Tuesday July 28.

Bookings for Monday and Tuesday August 3 and 4 are advanced to Tuesday and Wednesday July 28 and 29 respectively.

Bookings for Wednesday August 5 through Arwa Bint Al Hareth and Yacoub Hashem schools, as well as Um Salama school, and those made on the same day through Al Israa school, Zarqa camp police station and Najda police centre in Irbid, are advanced to Wednesday and Thursday July 29 and 30 respectively.

People booking for travel on Thursday August 6 will have to leave on Thursday July 30.

King conveys sorrow to Yemen over plane crash

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has conveyed his condolences to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh over the death of 38 people in a transport plane crash in Yemen. The King said he was conveying his "deep sorrow over the incident and the loss of life and those of the Jordanian people and government."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan called the Yemeni leader by telephone to convey condolences and sympathy.

The 58, people died when their Soviet-built military transport plane crashed in bad weather near Aden, former capital of south Yemen. The plane, an Antonov crashed Tuesday while on a flight to Aden from the Yemeni island of Socatra, a former Soviet military base 800 kilometres off Aden in the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Yemeni officials said the passengers included civilians and military personnel and that the plane crashed in a sandstorm. Investigations are under way.

Mayor receives delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir Thursday received a delegation representing residents of Hussein camp, Prince Hassan Housing Estate, South Hashemi area and Abu Alia and Nuzha areas. Mr. Bashir listened to the demands of the delegation which dealt with the construction of roads and sub-roads, allocating spaces for kiosks and issuance of licences to establish businesses in sub-roads in Hussein camp. The delegation was accompanied by members of the Lower House of Parliament Majed Khalifah and Abdul Aziz Jabr.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

JERASH FESTIVAL

★ Concerts by Lebanese singer Mithem Barakat at the southern theatre of the Greco-Roman city of Jerash — 9 p.m.

★ Arabic poetry recital at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman — 5:30 p.m.

Federation for Jordanian youth to inspire social work

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Ersehaidat said Thursday the ministry is establishing a federation for Jordanian youths, which will group all youth organisations and institutions.

At a meeting with a Belgian youth delegation currently on a visit to Jordan, Dr. Ersehaidat said the federation will be a framework, grouping all youth organisations and institutions concerned with voluntary work, public service, social and youth affairs.

He noted the important role of such a federation in activating the role of youths and enhancing their contribution to constructive and meaningful dialogue and enriching the democratic experience.

The federation will be formed

in accordance with democratic practices, and its members will be elected. He pointed out that members of the federation will not be allowed to embark any political activities, because it is not the right place for them.

Dr. Ersehaidat noted that His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government have directed special care and attention to the youth sector, pointing out that it accounts for almost 70 per cent of Jordan's population.

Later Dr. Ersehaidat met with a visiting youth delegation from Chile, and briefed them on the role of the ministry in serving the sports and youth movements in Jordan. He stressed the ministry's interest in setting up youth camps, because they contribute to enhancing interaction and strengthen dialogue among the youth.

HOME NEWS

Kheifat returns from Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — Higher Education Minister Awad Kheifat and the accompanying delegation Thursday returned home at the end of a two week visit to Malaysia, during which he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Azlan Shah of Malaysia. The message deals with bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. It also included an invitation to Sultan Azlan to visit Jordan. Dr. Kheifat met with the Malaysia prime minister and senior Malaysian officials and discussed with them means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of education and higher education. The Jordanian delegation consisted of Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, President of Zarqa University and Mr. Issa Al Qasir, Director of the Minister's office.

Jordan Times

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Votes of deviation

THE U.S. Democratic Party's platform on the Palestinian problem that was adopted on the first day of its convention in New York City a few days ago is a dangerous deviation from well established U.S. policies in the region. By moving in the direction of sealing the future of Jerusalem in declaring the Holy City as the capital of Israel, the Democratic Party and its leadership appear to play dirty politics with the politically and emotionally charged subject. This ominous demonstration of expediency does not augur well for the leadership of Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party presidential candidate, or for the future of American-Arab relations under any democratic administration. Unlike other regional conflicts in the Middle East on which the Arab and Islamic countries may be divided, there is solid unity among them on the issue of Jerusalem which precludes its continued occupation and annexation by Israel. This solidarity on the future of the Holy City cannot be expected to slacken or waiver no matter how long the Zionist state perpetuates its occupation and annexation.

Over and above the fact that the entire U.N. system, including the Security Council, has repeatedly declared Israel's annexation of Jerusalem null and void, there is unanimity among the Muslims and Christians of the world that the Holy City permanently occupies a central place in their faiths and establishes an integral part of the three monotheistic religions. Therefore no amount or degree of immoral politics can alter or diminish this universal perspective. For the Democratic Party now to play politics with it in order to win some votes is therefore treacherous in the extreme. The Jewish vote in the next U.S. presidential elections scheduled to take place in November cannot be so important as to put the entire U.S. interests in the Middle East on the line. With the U.S.-brokered peace hanging precariously in the balance, any wrong signal from Clinton about the future course or structure of the impending peace talks between Israel and the various Arab parties can only dampen the prospects of attaining peace in the area. This is especially so in view of the fact that the Democratic candidate's chances of getting elected to the White House have been enhanced considerably in the wake of Ross Perot's departure from the presidential race. The latest opinion polls indicate that Clinton's popularity shot up considerably in recent days, particularly after Perot's withdrawal. This is thus a time for Clinton and his party to talk and exercise high and responsible statesmanship instead of sinking to new lows in politicking. President George Bush has been assuming a rather low profile in the presidential race and therefore the world has not heard the last word from him. Bush is nowhere being written off in spite of the new success of Clinton, which in any way might be temporary. Surely though the president has few punches to pull yet. But whether it is Bush or Clinton, who wins the next election, the interests of the peace negotiations and the stability and security of the Middle East must not be put in jeopardy just for the sake of Jewish votes in U.S. elections.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily discussed the coming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in light of fresh statements by Israeli leaders. As the Arabs look forward to the visit, as a means of breathing new life in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, certain Israeli leaders persist that the visit is aimed primarily at enabling Israel and the U.S. to discuss the question of loan guarantees to the Jewish state, said the daily. With the new loans, Israel is of course striving to build more settlements on Arab land in Palestine, something which is contrary to the declared policies of the new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Labour government, the paper said. If it is true that Mr. Baker's visit to Israel is not to pressure the new Israeli leaders to take a positive attitude at the peace negotiations but only to give Israel the loan guarantees it had requested, then his tour would be a waste of time, the paper continued. It said that the Bush administration should adhere to its own positions of never giving loan guarantees to the Israelis unless they end their settlement programmes in the Arab lands so that real peace can be achieved, demanded the paper. It said that only through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which guarantee an exchange of land for peace, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights can such peace be achieved. Should Washington think otherwise, it would be a retreat from a firmly declared U.S. policy, raising questions about America's credibility once again, warned the paper. It said that the Arabs have reason to be apprehensive at this point in time because U.S. policies prior to the presidential elections are far from clear and they have to watch with added attention the expected outcome of Mr. Baker's visit to the region.

IRAQ DID well in boycotting a U.N. committee charged with the task of demarcating the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders because the committee is biased against Baghdad, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. Iraq is right in its rejection of such practice because any demarcation which is contrary to logic and aimed at stifling the Iraqi people is bound to sow the seeds for future turmoil and more conflicts in the Gulf region, said the daily. Indeed, the U.N. committee's practice aims at ending the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait in a manner that would keep the whole Gulf region in turmoil, added the daily. The paper said that the committee is serving the purposes and the interests of the U.S.-Zionist-British alliance against Iraq instead of taking steps to bring real peace to the region. The United Nations is supposed to help end world tension and bring about peace to the troubled spots not to rekindle conflicts and create grounds for future wars, the paper continued. It said that Iraq has the rights to defend its international boundaries and stop all attempts at creating a climate for more conflict with its neighbour.

THIS year has brought a major escalation in the war between Islamic extremists and secular Arab governments. The climax was the assassination of President Boudiaf of Algeria — which in turn followed the murder last month of Dr. Faraj Foudah, the Egyptian human rights activist.

Meanwhile an unprecedented number of Egyptian Christians have been killed this year by members of the extremist Gamaat Al Islamia. In one incident, last May, 14 members of one family were murdered in their home.

Statements last month by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia delivered to the two million Muslims attending the annual pilgrimage in Mecca, and carried by the Muslim press, that "Islam negates all other faiths" appears to justify the Gamaat's claim that Christians should be treated as pagans and not as protected "People of the Book" (which is how the Koran specifically refers to Christians and Jews). Such

comments have led some observers such as Judge Ashmawi, head of Egypt's state security courts, to question the degree of Saudi backing for extremist groups.

King Fahd's speech, with its profound reinterpretation of basic doctrine, is one of the clearest statements to date of Saudi support for the ideological position of the Islamic extremists. It is also a point of view that grows directly out of the ideas of Abdul Wahhab, an 18th century Islamic puritan, who considered Christians to be beyond redemption. The Wahhabis set off a tribal war across Arabia, during which they excommunicated their Muslim opponents before killing them.

Yet the Prophet Mohammad specifically forbade the excommunication of Muslims by Muslims. He reprimanded his companions for asking him to excommunicate Ibn Sul, whom they suspected of betraying them. He stated: "It shall never be said

that Mohammad ever condemned a believer."

To justify his innovative use of excommunication, Abdul Wahhab drew upon the teachings of the medieval theologian, Ibn Taimaia, who lived during the Mongol invasions that devastated the Muslim World. Ibn Taimaia ruled that any Muslim ruler who sided with the Mongols, though Muslim in name, was excommunicated by intention. He declared that Jihad, holy war, is the only real proof of a Muslim's faith.

The Wahhabi revolt was put down in the early part of the last century by an Egyptian force, led by Ibrahim Pasha. A hundred years later, during the 1920s, the Saudi family used Wahhabism as their rallying call to conquer what were a number of desert sheikhdoms and create a united Arabia.

Wahhabism legitimises the Saudi family's right to rule. The failure to maintain legitimacy would not just endanger the ruling family's position, but also,

quite possibly, the unity of the country. Wahhabism, with its claim of being a purer and more militant form of orthodoxy, needs two very particular conditions to flourish.

The first is the belief that the Muslim World is under grave threat — there has to be an equivalent to Ibn Taimaia's Mongols. The second is that Muslims must be prepared to excommunicate other Muslims and carry out Jihad against them.

In the streets of Cairo's slums, tape cassettes are sold claiming that the Gulf war is a prelude to a new Christian crusade against Muslims. Alongside these tapes are sold the political manifesto of the Algerian FIS condemning Arab governments for supporting the Christian West.

Saudi-published books excommunicating Shiite, Druze, Sufis, and other Muslim sects are also on sale. That the makers of such tapes are from the Gamaat Islamic Al Islamia is not in doubt. That Saudi Arabia supports these

groups is also not in question, for Wahhabism is the ideological cement that binds the Saudis to the Egyptian Gamaat and to the FIS, which came close to winning power in the aborted Algerian elections.

Saudi financial backing for many extremist groups is funnelled through Islamic banks whose capital is Saudi and whose board of directors often includes prominent religious figures, most notably from Al Azhar, Egypt's Islamic university.

It is also usual to employ members of extremist Islamic groups as advisers. Such is the case with Hassan Turabi, head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan and, according to Egyptian press reports, Madani of the FIS.

With the rise of militant Shiite Islam in Iran, the West turned to Saudi Arabia thinking that it could provide a moderate alternative to Khomeinism. But the pro-Western posturing of the Saudi regime was never more than an expedient, given the

country's military weakness and the hostility of its neighbours to its Wahhabi doctrines.

By supporting Muslim extremist groups such as the Gamaat, the Muslim Brotherhood and the FIS, the Saudis hope, at the very least, to keep neighbouring regimes in a state of inner turmoil.

The Saudis have not forgotten Ibrahim Pasha. Their hope, though, is that these secular regimes will give way to fundamentalist ones that will look to Saudi Arabia for financial support and political leadership.

Such an outcome will usher in the Dark Ages to the Arab World, as well as being inimical to the interests of the West. Yet the Saudis believe that they will achieve regional power, for they read the West's complacency as proof that the West needs oil more than Saudi Arabia needs the West.

Karim Alrawi is an Egyptian writer living in Cairo. The article is reprinted from the Guardian.

Extremists' unholy war

By Karim Alrawi

Corruption zooms to top of French political agenda

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

BORDEAUX, FRANCE — Do honesty and politics ever mix? A rash of indictments or reported indictments of senior politicians has left France wondering, and has thrust corruption to the top of the political agenda.

In less than two months a cabinet minister, a popular opposition leader and now Socialist Speaker of the National Assembly Henri Emmanuelli — regarded by his friends as a pillar of honesty — have become embroiled in allegations of dirty dealing, fraud and corruption.

What is more, the proceedings have been so glaringly public that in all three cases reports of an impending indictment have appeared in the press before any official announcement.

Bernard Tapie, millionaire businessman turned urban affairs minister, resigned from the government in May shortly before being indicted for business malpractice and fraud.

Francois Leotard, leader of the centre-right Republican Party, resigned all his official posts at the end of last month after an indictment for fraud over a property on the French Riviera.

Mr. Emmanuelli, a former Socialist Party treasurer whose indictment in a long-running party financing scandal was announced in Le Monde last

week but remains unconfirmed, has complained of being "prejudged by the media."

The conservative daily Le Figaro sympathised in its weekend edition.

"To know what your investigating magistrate has in mind, you have to turn to your daily newspaper," the paper lamented. "That is how low the judiciary has sunk."

Much opprobrium has been directed at the magistrate investigating the Socialist Party's finances, Renaud Van Ruymbeke, the man Mr. Emmanuelli's lawyers believe must be behind the leak to Le Monde.

Several papers quoted the late former Minister Robert Boulin describing Mr. Van Ruymbeke in 1979 as "an ambitious magistrate hateful of society, blinded by a passion to bring down a minister."

Many politicians have also complained that the French word for indictment, "inculpation", is too close linguistically to the notion of culpability. An indicted person is still innocent before the law.

But the accusations of trial by media, shared by the Socialist Party which hailed Mr. Emmanuelli as a hero at an extraordinary congress here, reflect a mini-revolution in the practice of politics in France and its relationship with the law.

Until recently French politics

operated according to what Justice Minister Michel Vauzelle has called "the law of the jungle," with corruption an accepted part of political life.

That changed when the Socialists passed two new laws in 1988 and 1990 on party financing and the raising of election campaign funds.

After two more years of pre-variation, including the passing of an amnesty law exempting elected politicians from prosecution, the Socialists appear to have accepted they must take their own share of blame for corruption.

Their party is accused of solic-

ing rake-offs from the construction industry in the late 1980s in exchange for preference for public works tenders.

The so-called Urba scandal, named after the consultancy firm which allegedly acted as go-between, has been a major cause of public disillusionment with the Socialists, who came to power in

1981 promoting themselves as the party of morality and social justice.

Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, appointed in April, has sought to make amends by declaring war on corruption in public life.

During his first parliamentary speech after becoming premier, he brandished a list of politicians he said had committed misdemeanours and would not be allowed to get away with them. The latest spate of indictments appears to be convincing — or frightening — politicians of all persuasions into thinking he means business.

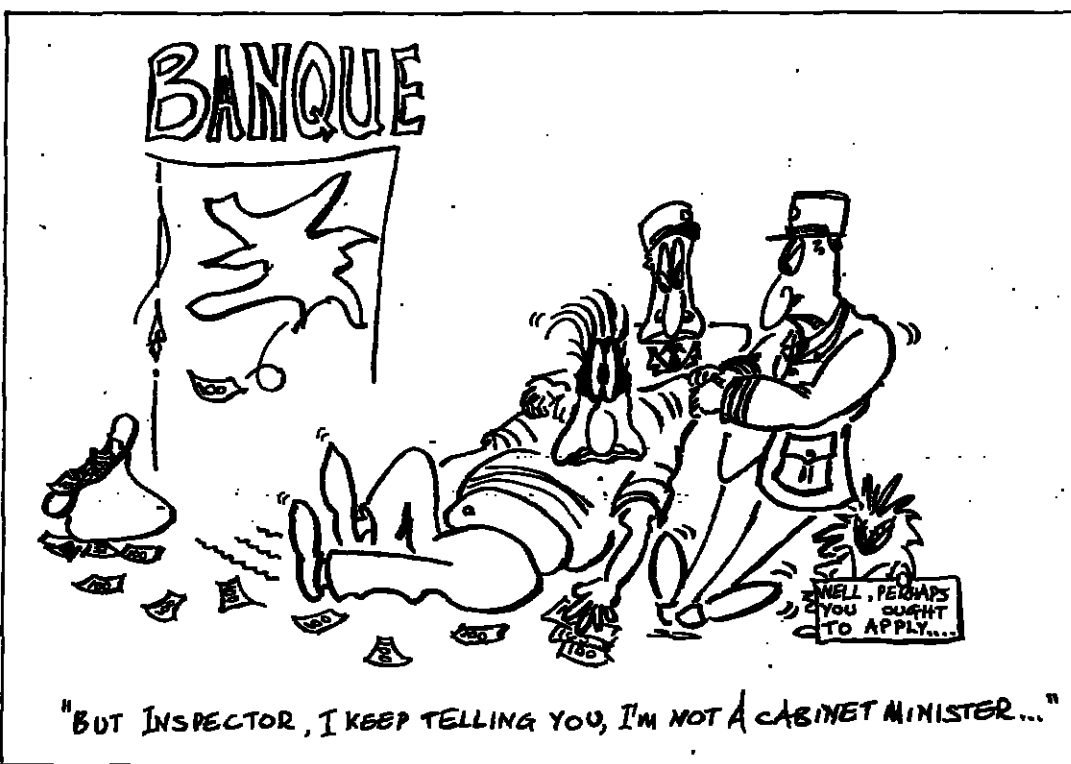
"Last week it was Francois Leotard, this week it is Henri Emmanuelli. Who will it be next week? This is not good at all," said Charles Pasqua, a former conservative interior minister.

The Emmanuelli affair, curiously, has both drawbacks and advantages for the Socialist Party.

It is clearly embarrassing, but on the other hand it has managed to unite a party all too prone to factional infighting and, it is argued, proven the independence of the judiciary.

That paradox was strikingly expressed when Emmanuelli arrived for the opening day of the party congress on Friday.

In a rare show of unison, the delegates all began chanting: "We are all under indictment."



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Arabs display guarded optimism regarding changes in Israel, are wary of U.S. pre-election intentions

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The Jordanian press last week gave prominence to a visit to the Middle East in the coming week by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the new government in Israel, the situation in Iraq and a host of domestic issues.

Tackling Mr. Baker's upcoming visit to the region, Al Dstour daily said that it seems Mr. Baker is coming to boost the peace process which is almost deadlocked due to the Likud government's intransigence at the negotiating table. We are indeed concerned to see the peace process going again and to see fruitful results emerging and therefore we hope that Mr. Baker will try his best to achieve that goal, said the daily.

Al Ra'i daily said that Mr. Baker's visit would lead nowhere if the U.S. secretary was coming here to assure Israel of the loan guarantees it had requested from Washington.

The paper referred to a statement by Israeli leaders who said that they were awaiting the new loan guarantees from Mr. Baker, noting that only the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions can bring peace to the region.

Mr. Baker is coming here less than a week after Rabin's government was formed and Mr. Baker is definitely coming not to congratulate Mr. Rabin on his success, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dstour.

The writer said that the Bush administration is concerned to get the peace talks moving fast once again and it is really interested to see the Arabs and

the Israelis reaching some kind of progress in their talks so that this can boost the image of the President Bush who is now involved in a presidential election campaign, said the writer.

He said that if Mr. Baker is coming to give backing to Mr. Rabin's invitation to Arab heads of state to go to Jerusalem, his mission will be futile and can achieve nothing at all.

He said the region was in bad need to drastic solutions to the outstanding issues and a permanent settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

Sawt Al Shaab daily warned the Arabs that Mr. Rabin might be trying to win the favour of the United States at the expense of the Arab World and the Arab causes.

The paper said that Bush administration is getting carried away in its whole-hearted support for the Rabin government and probably it could be secretly offering Mr. Rabin the \$10 billion guarantees Israel has been demanding.

Mr. Bush, said the paper, is trying to win the Jewish organisations' favour in order to secure a second term in office.

Bashir Barghouti, a columnist in Al Dstour, said that it is clear that the Middle East region is on the threshold of a fresh stage in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations following the success of the Labour Party in Israel.

The writer said that despite the guarded optimism some Arabs show, there is reason to believe that Mr. Rabin has something dangerous up his sleeve, and the Palestinians

and the other Arabs should be united in their stand and ready to foil any attempt considered detrimental or harmful to the Arab cause.

The Arabs should never forget that the Bush administration is trying to win votes for Mr. Bush in the current election campaign in the United States by achieving a breakthrough in the Middle East peace negotiations no matter what that might cost the Arabs, warned the writer.

Commenting on Mr. Rabin's success at the head of the Labour Party Al Dstour daily said that declared intentions by themselves can achieve no success in the peace process; the Arabs can not accept sweet talk, rather they need practical steps to help the confidence-building measures, creating an opportune climate for successful Arab-Israeli negotiations, said the paper.

Sawt Al Shaab said that with his sweet words Mr. Rabin is trying to deceive the Arabs as well as the Americans and the Europeans.

It said that nothing in his speech before the Knesset showed his readiness to comply with the international legitimacy, to respond to the demand for an Israeli pullout from Arab lands or to give the Palestinians their rights, said the daily.

A columnist in Al Ra'i, Ibrahim Al Absi, agreed with Sawt Al Shaab commentary, noting that Mr. Rabin did not give a single indication that he was really working for a lasting and just peace.

All that the Arabs heard

were mere statements about peace and an invitation for the Arabs to visit Israel, he said.

Mr. Rabin, said the writer, mentioned nothing about Israel's readiness to exchange land for peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Rabin's determination to keep the so-called security settlements and to freeze the others can by no means help the cause of just peace, said Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dstour daily.

The writer said that thanks to the presence of elements, in Mr. Rabin's government, who are strongly oriented towards achieving peace and ending the presence of the settlements in Arab lands, one can hope that Mr. Rabin's policies will be finally exposed and he would have to take a decisive decision on the settlements sooner or later.

Tackling the situation in Iraq against a backdrop of a deadlock with the United Nations over the behaviour of U.N. inspectors in Baghdad, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the crisis is caused by the United States which is influencing the United Nations moves.

The Iraqis realise too well that it is the United States which is handling the United Nations' affairs and it is Washington which is trying to hit hard at Iraq's agriculture and, therefore, it has instructed the U.N. inspectors to besiege the Agriculture Ministry building, said Fakhri Kawar.

The writer said that the U.S.

is unhappy to see the Iraqis assuming their normal life and producing more food despite the devastating war of 1991.

Sawt Al Shaab daily supported Iraq wholeheartedly in its position vis-a-vis the U.N. It said that the Baghdad government did well in refusing to succumb to pressure from the U.N. inspectors and was right in boycotting the U.N. commission on the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. The paper said that instead of defusing tension, the U.N. is trying to create more problems for Iraq and Kuwait in the future.

The world community is accomplice to a crime being committed by the United Nations and the United States against the Iraqi people, said Abdul Rahman Omar in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that by maintaining the sanctions on Iraq, which has implemented all U.N. resolutions, the world community is committing a crime against humanity.

Furthermore, the nations of the world are condoning Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab territories and refraining from any step to force the Israelis to end their occupation of Palestinian land, said the writer. In that, he said, the world community is taking part in yet another crime against mankind.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dstour, urged the new board of the Jordanian Press Association to transform the association into one of the most important unions of the com-

try, professionally and politically.

The writer said that the journalists should insist to have a new law regarding their association that can cater to their dreams and help the association serve as a leading tool in national undertakings.

Mona Shqair, a columnist in Al Dstour, said that despite the efforts made over the past years towards reconstruction and development, very little has been achieved in the socio-economic life of Jordan.

The writer said that despite the millions spent on promoting education very little has been achieved and despite the millions invested in industry very little achievements have been attained.

The writer demanded that selfish interests be put aside and that serious work be done on the part of those in official positions who can bring about real change and improvement.

Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i, demanded that vocational training education in Jordan undergo real review and overhauling.

The writer said that in view of the high rates of unemployment, those who are in charge of the vocational training policies should study means and apply methods that can help the youth get involved in the labour market and reduce the unemployment problem. The writer said that there must be a revision of the vocational training curricula on the same level as the process which is going on for the overhauling of the academic curricula.

Hilarious 'new world order' prompts serious thinking about human kind

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — New world order and democracy are the order of the day. Newspaper headlines carry them, the people in the streets are using and abusing them, not believing that they can actually pronounce, let alone interpret, these new apparitions in their vocabulary. And the artists, well... they also bring their contribution to semantics.

At least this is what the group acting in what used to be known as Cinema Rainbow is doing in a performance sparkling with wit, criticism, fast dueling replies and hilarious fun.

The group, none other than the famous Nabil Sawalha, Hisham Yanis and Nadera Omran, backed by three props, after four months of "full-house" performance in Amman and in the provinces, treated the cinema house, transformed it into theatre and settled there.

Their play, "Welcome to the New World (and Local) Order," is to be performed "for as long as the public demands it." It has been the talk of the town for some time now and rightfully so.

"We give the people something they have been hungry for," says Mr. Sawalha. And judging from the look of things — full house and uninterrupted, irresistible laughter — they will continue to be eager to see this play for quite some time to come.

"What prompted the daring script?" was the question foremost on the mind of at least one journalist. "Years of frustration," says Mr. Sawalha, who goes on to say that of the two sorts of "daring" he knows (confrontational daring and diplomatic daring) his group has chosen the diplomatic one.

"Confrontation gets you nowhere because you bring out the negative in people. We have said everything we could say without hurting anybody, with the blessing of all levels of officials."

The script, which has to be admired for its skilful handling of ideas and interlacing of scenes, has been, by the group's admission, the outcome of joint work of the two male actors.

Set on a crowded background — a gathering of barrier posts pasted over with newspaper pages (a jumble that reminds one of the "new world order") — the play is refreshingly updated with the latest events on the world scene. It inevitably touches different chords in different hearts, appealing to the general public with more or less veiled hints to contemporary events, people and leaders.

Sketches flow speedily, the brain barely has time to grasp a situation. The actors talk, sing, impersonate, in a whirl of sound and colour. Even the most serious are brought to laughter; and if you are endowed with a healthy sense of humour you will end up with an ache, as the facial muscles are forced to stretch beyond control.

"Democracy on the right path is a form of dialogue," opines Mr. Sawalha, who stresses that there has been no censorship against the script of the play. "We do not want to see the Ministry of Culture as a competitor, as a moody censor. We want to perform under their blessing," he says frankly.

Spontaneous in acting, the players are "contained" by a script for the writing of which they meet, discuss, change, update.

Future plans include a play for children, where "we will talk to



A scene from the play presently performed at the Rainbow Theatre

them with respect and tackle a host of subjects," and a play whose theme will be that of the Arab summit.

"Do you intend to get the public involved in debates?" "People, we could see, come to our performance to listen. They are hungry for such words. They, though, do not want to get involved," says Mr. Sawalha.

But, adds his colleague and co-star Mr. Yanis, "if you can talk like this, it shows you that this country is secure."

"You defend freedom," Mr.

Yanis adds after a story whose moral is illustrative of his idea, "not slavery. And democracy makes you free."

The opening of the new (Rainbow) theatre on Thursday night was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and members of the government as well as other invited guests. His Majesty the King was expected to inaugurate the play and the theatre, "and he would have really liked to come," but he could not due to unforeseen circumstances.



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Saddam urges Iraqis not sacrifice dignity

(Continued from page 1)

within the Western camp to American hegemony," he said. This friction would eventually erode the Western alliance against Iraq, he noted.

President Saddam called on Arabs to overthrow pro-Western leaders like Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

In his uncompromising speech, President Saddam also singled out Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

"What is needed is a jihad (holy war) to purge the Arab Nation of these treacherous leaders who have become a heavy and shameful burden on our region," he declared.

"U.S. spy planes... daily take off from their airfields in the land of Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia) openly to carry out aggression against the people of Iraq by spying on them," he said.

"This ruler of Saudi Arabia has been exposed to the Muslims and Arabs... these proud people... will not accept such humiliation."

Referring to Mr. Mubarak, President Saddam said: "Let the people of dear Egypt know what role they should play towards a ruler who betrayed all meaning of nationalism, pan-Arabism, and religion."

He referred to the Kuwaiti rulers as "corrupt... slaves to a foreign master," saying their policy towards the Palestinians, for example, proved their "treason towards the Arabs and the national causes."

President Saddam reiterated a promise to introduce democratic reforms that would end the one-party rule which has prevailed since the Baathist coup 24 years ago, and to give the press wider freedom.

A new constitution would be offered soon for a nation-wide referendum, he said.

The Iraqi leader blamed the delay in introducing reforms which he promised in March last year amid widespread rebellion against his rule on "the domestic and international political situation."

He referred to Kurdish rebels who have seized control of their mountainous region last year as "traitors with little faith being patronised by the foreign invaders."

An Iraqi minister said Friday the government's decision to block the search of its agriculture ministry was irrevocable.

"Iraq firmly rejects the evil manoeuvres of the U.N. inspection team besieging the agriculture ministry," Iraqi Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahhab Mahmoud Al Sabagh said.

Iraq "is adamant not to allow these scoundrels to disgrace the ministry premises," he said.

But U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus, arriving in the middle of the anniversary celebrations marking the 1968 coup, also ruled out compromise.

"I'm not here to negotiate," the head of the U.N. special commission dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction told

reporters. "I have a message to the Iraqi government."

The United States and its western allies are considering their response to the Iraqi stand with Washington refusing to rule out military action.

The U.N. secretary-general has demanded a full investigation into the slaying of a U.N. guard helping relief efforts in Kurdish held northern Iraq, a spokesman said.

The Fijian guard was shot and killed Thursday while he slept in the town of Dohuk, about 340 kilometres north of Baghdad, said U.N. spokesman Francois Guiliani.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali issued a statement late Thursday on the killing, "ordering an immediate and thorough investigation of this deplorable crime."

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In cooperation with
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U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 15/7/92	TOKYO 16/7/92
U.S. Dollar	1.9225	1.9205
Deutsche Mark	1.4415	1.4435
Swiss Franc	1.3395	1.3425
French Franc	5.0055	5.0010**
Japanese Yen	125.08	124.93
European Currency Unit	7.3745	7.3766**

Interbank Interest Rates
Date: 16/7/92

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.37	3.50	3.75
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.12	10.12	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.81	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.56	8.75	8.75	8.62
French Franc	10.06	10.12	10.12	10.00
Japanese Yen	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.21
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.50

Forward Rates
Date: 16/7/92

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.37	3.50	3.75
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.12	10.12	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.81	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.56	8.75	8.75	8.62
French Franc	10.06	10.12	10.12	10.00
Japanese Yen	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.21
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.50

Other Currencies
Date: 16/7/92

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.37	3.50	3.75
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.12	10.12	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.81	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.56	8.75	8.75	8.62
French Franc	10.06	10.12	10.12	10.00
Japanese Yen	4.53	4.40	4.21	4.21
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.50

CAN Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	14/7/92	15/7/92	16/7/92
All Share	141.63	141.72	141.72
Banking Sector	104.15	104.35	104.35
Insurance Sector	150.13	150.34	150.34
Industry Sector	194.38	194.20	194.20
Services Sector	177.66	178.41	178.41

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9393/98	U.S. dollars	1.9393/98
One U.S. dollar	1.1903/08	Canadian dollar	1.4723/28
	1.6612/17	Deutsche marks	1.3220/30
	30.37/40	Dutch guilders	30.37/40
	4.9680/730	Swiss francs	111.6/111.8
	125.05/10	Belgian francs	5.3450/500
	5.7880/930	French francs	5.6675/725
	3352.40/352.90	Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (15/07/1992 - 15/07/1992)

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3,824	2.950	2.950	2.950
JORDAN KIBLA BANK	28,512	1.840	1.840	1.870
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,445	2.520	2.540	2.500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	32,120	2.150	2.100	2.000
UNION BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	5,127	2.120	2.170	2.170
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	4,007	2.000	1.920	2.000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	49,338	2.730	2.740	2.820
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,542	2.100	2.120	2.110
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	107,853	1.170	1.170	1.160
STATE OF JORDAN	7,143	1.090	1.090	1.090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	61,396	2.140	2.130	2.050
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	24,601	2.080	2.070	2.040
STATE OF JORDAN	2,779	14.250	14.250	14.250
ARAB BANK	840,510	118.000	117.250	117.250
AL-SHAR AL-SHARAH INSURANCE	2,326	3.020	3.020	3.020
JORDAN INSURANCE	5,480	2.750	2.740	2.740
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	10,444	2.500	2.490	2.500
JORDAN TRADING INSURANCE	5,831	2.550	2.550	2.550
JORDAN INVESTMENT & REINSURANCE	10,400	2.600	2.600	2.600
AMMAN REAS INSURANCE	1,406	1.440	1.430	1.430
AMMAN REAS INSURANCE	1,548	1.351	1.350	1.350
ARAB CITY & ACCIDENTS INSURANCE	4,400	2.300	2.300	2.300
PELAGOS/PELAGOS INSURANCE	385	3.850	3.850	3.850
THE NATIONAL AMALIA INSURANCE	2,000	2.000	2.000	2.000
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	2,943	3.150	3.150	3.150
JORDAN INVESTMENT POWER	21,825	1.100	1.100	1.100
ARAB INVESTMENT POWER	2,104	4.100	4.100	4.100
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	57,802	1.340	1.350	1.340
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	14,348	0.450	0.450	0.450
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,413	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALARA	302	5.750	5.640	5.640
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	209,435	1.500	1.500	1.500
MAJEDDIYI GROUP, TRADING & MAINTENANCE	31,318	0.990	0.990	0.990
PELAGOS/PELAGOS INSURANCE	29,917	0.980	0.980	0.980
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	52,616	0.700	0.700	0.700
JORDAN KIBLA CO. FOR AGRIC. & FOOD PROD.	5,426	1.100	1.100	1.100
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	31,863	1.540	1.520	1.510
JORDAN PUBLIC	5,875	2.250	2.250	2.250
THE JORDAN TRADING	32,444	2.500	2.470	2.460
ARAB ALKHALATIN TRADING	241,043	7.950	7.940	7.900
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	289,879	9.970	10.000	9.780
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	72,340	5.920	5.880	5.800
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	55,718	21.000	21.150	21.000
NATIONAL FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	158,975	4.430	4.510	4.580
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	155,516	6.700	6.700	6.600
NATIONAL FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	80,459	3.750	3.750	3.750
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	12,499	2.280	2.280	2.280
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	27,623	6.200	6.400	6.400
THE JORDAN TRADING	67,164	6.720	6.750	6.750
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	12,094	0.770	0.780	0.780
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	21,593	5.340	5.300	5.100
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	524	2.900	2.820	2.820
THE JORDAN TRADING	4,664	4.550	4.700	4.700
JORDAN TRADING	294,053	3.080	3.070	3.060
ARAB TRADING FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	10,391	0.600	0.600	0.580
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	71,418	4.200	4.200	4.200
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	33,654	13.450	13.340	13.300
ALABDI INDUSTRIES	8,530	3.000	3.000	3.000
ALABDI INDUSTRIES	12,093	3.930	3.860	3.810
ALABDI INDUSTRIES	2,214	1.440	1.400	1.350
ALABDI INDUSTRIES	2,821	1.140	1.110	1.110
ALABDI INDUSTRIES	43,903	2.120	2.110	2.090
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWCIO	3,908	2.650	2.600	2.600
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	85,587	7.050	7.000	6.730
JORDAN TRADING	42,202	3.540	3.530	3.510
JORDAN TRADING	104,587	1.240	1.230	1.240
JORDAN TRADING	11,603	2.000	1.990	1.740
JORDAN TRADING	42,266	5.930	5.900	5.880
JORDAN TRADING	573,801	5.130	5.110	5.110
UNIVERSAL HOUSE INDUSTRIES	158,576	2.000	2.140	2.140
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	504	21.000	21.000	21.000
JORDAN TRADING	65,221	8.450	8.470	8.500

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks pushed their losing streak to a second day and the Nikkei closed at its day's low in listless trade. The Nikkei average was down 439.59 points or 2.59 per cent to 16,548.07.

LONDON — Share prices took a hammering late in the session after concerns about the state of the U.K. economy and prospects for interest rates gripped the market. The FTSE index closed 51.5 down at 2,431.9.

PARIS — Talk of another German rate rise and a dizzying drop in French bond futures conspired to drive the bourse to its lowest close in six months, dealers said. The CAC-40 index spiralled down 49.45 to end at 1,801.78.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips fell more than 40 in late morning trade, hurt by a steep drop in IBM and concern over a weak economy. The Dow stood about 44 lower at 3,318.

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Italy, Austria react quickly German central bank raises key interest rate

BONN (AP) — Germany's central bank Thursday hiked a key lending rate to a historic record, acting against wishes of the United States and other nations that German rates be lowered to help with economic recovery.

The German action could curb U.S. exports since the move would tend to slow Germany's economy and its ability to buy American products.

One American economist called the decision an "embarrassment" for U.S. President George Bush.

Eight days earlier at the Munich summit of the world's seven biggest industrial nations, Mr. Bush, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the other G-7 leaders pledged to "act together" to assure greater economic growth.

The Bush administration views Germany's high interest rates as a hindrance to the recovery of its interest rates any higher.

But the Bundesbank, Germany's independent central bank, announced Thursday it was raising its discount rate by three-quarters of a percent, to 8.75 per cent. It was the second German rate hike in seven months.

The Bundesbank action had an immediate impact in Austria and Italy, which raised their own discount rates.

Central banks in Switzerland and Denmark kept their discount rates unchanged.

It was unclear whether this would weaken the sliding U.S. dollar or tend to raise low American interest rates.

A leading U.S. economist, Robert Brusca of Nikko Securities Co. International Inc. in New York, said he thinks the economic fallout in the United States will be minimal.

But he said with the president already having serious trouble hanging onto his credibility as the U.S. election nears, the Bundesbank's move is a humiliation for Mr. Bush.

"Hiking a rate like this is not in the spirit of the Munich summit," Mr. Brusca said. "It's an embarrassment for someone (Bush) who's supposed to be strong on the international side."

Economist David Jones of Ansbrey G. Lanston and Co., a New York securities dealer, said the higher German rates would have tended to raise U.S. rates since foreign investors would have shifted to mark-denominated securities.

But he said that was offset a short time later when Ross Perot announced he would not seek the presidency because the three-way race would probably have been through into the House of Representatives.

At least partly to mollify critics and reduce the foreign impact, the Bundesbank opted not to raise the Lombard rate, an effective ceiling on overnight loans which is currently pegged at 9.75 per cent.

"We wanted to accomplish something domestically without causing complications on the international front," Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger told reporters after the meeting of central bank policy-makers in Frankfurt.

Mr. Schlesinger said the move is designed to brake inflationary pressures resulting from monetary expansion.

Mr. Schlesinger said it is extraordinarily important that Germany fight inflation, which is running at about four per cent.

But Mr. Brusca, the American economist, said he doesn't think the hike was needed.

"You would think with (German) interest rates already so high and the German mark clearly strong you would have two key signals that say (monetary) policy is tight," Mr. Brusca said.

The discount rate is the Bundesbank's basic rate for lending to banks. Raising it tends to keep banks from lending as freely as at lower rates.

Raising the Lombard rate, which is seen as more of a benchmark, could have greater impact abroad in forcing other countries to raise their rates or in requiring a realignment of the currencies within the European Monetary System.

Nonetheless, the increase in the discount rate, which became effective Friday, was greater than some analysts had expected.

"This is not a strident move, but it's something that's got people worried," Mr. Brusca said.

Last Dec. 19, the Bundesbank increased the discount rate from 7.5 per cent to 8.0 per cent and the Lombard rate from 9.25 per cent to 9.75 per cent, both post-war records.

Those increases sparked a spate of interest hikes in some other European countries and prevented others from lowering theirs.

The Bank of Italy, moving quickly in defence of the battered lira, Thursday raised its official discount rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to 13.75 per cent — the second increase in the key rate in 12 days.

The central bank stressed that the increase, effective Friday, was aimed at assuring "stability in the foreign exchange and government security markets."

The Bank of Italy's move came in response to the Bundesbank's decision which came as the lira was under severe speculative pressure on mounting expectations that Italy would have to devalue its currency.

The discount rate is the rate the central bank charges on loans to banks. It influences the rates banks then charge banks then charge their customers.

Prior to the Bank of Italy rate increase, the German mark had climbed to an all-time high of 760.50 lire at the Milan fixing. It eased to 758.50 lire following the rate hike.

On July 5, the Italian discount rate was hiked by one full point, to 13 per cent, to prop up the lira.

Milan traders said few had expected the Italian monetary authorities to react so aggressively by matching the German rate hike.

One trader added that the move should be seen as yet another signal Italian authorities won't accept a devaluation no matter how high the costs are to keep the lira stable.

The Italian government had hoped that a 30-trillion-lira (\$26 billion) austerity interim budget announced last weekend would have helped restore the investors' confidence in the lira.

Instead the Italian currency remained under pressure this week as the mark continued its advance on expectations of a German rate hike.

In an initial response to the Bank of Italy decision, the lira improved against most currencies.



Helmut Schlesinger

China links reform to unemployment

BEIJING (R) — China's labour minister has given warning that unemployment will rise as the nation carries out economic reforms, the official New China News Agency has said.

Ruan Chongwu said China's employment policy, which ensures cradle-to-grave job security, should be overhauled, the agency said, quoting a state council circular.

Mr. Ruan gave no figure for the number of unemployed, but he said China's urban industries had a surplus labour force of over 10 million, while the number of rural surplus workers stood at more than 100 million.

"Ruan cautioned that the unemployment rate will most likely rise during the process of transforming operation mechanisms and restructuring industrial structure," the agency said.

China's reformers are caught between the need to shake up state industry and their fear of social instability triggered by mass unemployment.

Under economic reforms led by senior leader Deng Xiaoping, surplus urban workers could find themselves out of a job as state industry is given the power to hire and fire and to cut losses.

Wholesale layoffs are unlikely until China puts in place a national social security system separate from the existing safety net in state-run factories.

"The central government must encourage the development of the labour market and competitive mechanisms to control labour and employment for all Chinese citizens," Mr. Ruan was quoted as saying.

The China Daily quoted Mr. Ruan as saying in his circular that urban unemployment should be limited to 3.5 per cent, or about five million people.

In addition to its unemployed, China has an army of underemployed workers in state factories who receive pay and benefits under the "iron rice bowl" system.

Seasonal unemployment in the countryside is a growing problem and this surplus labour is swelling the ranks of the so-called "floating population" of migrant workers in major cities.

The China Daily quoted Mr. Ruan as saying there should be a responsibility system at local government level to limit unemployment.

New non-government businesses should be encouraged to absorb redundancies from state enterprises and farms.

The newspaper said 50,000 workers had been laid off by state enterprises in 10 provinces during the first three months of the year.

Meanwhile, China's economy moved into high gear in the first six months of 1992, with gross national product (GNP) surging by an estimated 10 per cent over the same period last year.

The official People's Daily said the industrial production, consumer spending, overseas trade and domestic investment all shot higher. Economists predicted the growth spurt would continue.

Mindful of fears the high growth rate may mean China is courting another dangerous episode of overheating, the People's Daily described the overall economic situation as "prosperity amid stability."

The newspaper attributed China's high growth rates, which outstrip even the government's increased estimates, to Deng Xiaoping's call in January for faster economic reform. The call launched a wave of spending and production across the country.

"Aftercomrade Deng Xiaoping's speech was released, every locality is grasping the opportunity to broaden and deepen their economic reforms," it said.

"The economic situation during the first half of the year showed these characteristics: High, fast, booming and lively," the newspaper said.

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Shell blasts Sarajevo as Hurd meets Bosnian leader

SARAJEVO (R) — An artillery shell slammed into a Sarajevo street as British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd conferred a few hundred metres away with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Friday, a Sarajevo journalist said.

At least four people were seriously hurt in the blast, said Zoran Pirolic, a Radio Sarajevo editor.

The shell, believed to have been fired by Serb forces besieging the Bosnian capital, landed in Marshal Tito Street a few hundred yards from the Bosnian presidency building.

Sniper fire ricocheted round main crossroads in the city and local people were warned to take special care as Mr. Hurd arrived with 17 tonnes of relief supplies.

His morale-boosting visit followed one by French President Francois Mitterrand at the end of June and an intensification of efforts by new Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic to halt the fighting.

Mr. Hurd's Royal Air Force C-130 transport plane dipped over the lines of heavily-armed Serb irregular forces before landing at the U.N.-controlled airport.

Perched on the flight deck, he had a clear view of the Serb encirclement of the city with men and artillery.

He emerged from the plane wearing a flak jacket over his suit to be greeted by General Lewis MacKenzie, the Canadian commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo.

A convoy of four French and Canadian armoured personnel carriers drove Mr. Hurd to the Bosnian presidency.

Serb forces who have been

fighting Bosnia's independence for three months also shelled the city during the night and set some houses on fire.

Mr. Hurd arrived in Bosnia from Croatia where he warned President Franjo Tudjman against any attempt by Serbs and Croats to carve up Bosnia, where nearly half the population is Muslim.

Britain supports a proposal by Lord Carrington, the chief EC peace negotiator for Yugoslavia, that Bosnia should be a unitary state made up of three constituent parts.

Muslims make up 44 per cent of the 4.3 million population and ethnic Croats, who also support independence, another 17 per cent.

The 32 per cent Serb minority have captured two thirds of Bosnia's territory during the conflict which has prompted the United Nations to impose sanctions on Serbia and its ally Montenegro.

Mr. Hurd was due to arrive in Belgrade later Friday for meetings with government and opposition leaders.

He will have talks with Mr. Panic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Saturday.

In London, peace talks on Bosnia went into their third day Friday on a note of cautious optimism.

Warring Serb, Croat and Muslim factions were set to continue negotiations which began in London Wednesday chaired by European Community peace envoy Lord Carrington and his deputy, Jose Cutileiro of Portugal.

Leaders of the three factions have so far only met the EC negotiators individually, but Bosnia's Muslim Foreign Minister

Haris Silajdzic told British Broadcasting Television: "I think there are some grounds for optimism."

"We are apparently all agreed that international control should be set up over weapons and aircraft and that control should be carried out by the (U.N.) Security Council."

The leader of Bosnia's Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, offered a 14-day ceasefire in Bosnia from Monday and a truce in the Muslim town of Gorazde, where 70,000 people have been under siege by Serb forces for weeks.

In Bosnia, fighting continued unabated Friday, leading weight to the view that ceasefire in the Yugoslav conflict do not have a history of success.

Radio messages from Gorazde Thursday said the town was still under Serb artillery attack, eight hours after Mr. Karadzic's proposal of a ceasefire.

Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary who has worked for 11 months without result to bring peace to Yugoslavia, saw no imminent breakthrough.

"I think the best thing to do is to be pessimistic until something optimistic happens," he said after briefing British Prime Minister John Major on the progress of the peace talks.

Mr. Silajdzic gave the Serbian ceasefire offer a cautious response, calling for international measures to enforce a truce.

He said a ceasefire would only work if measures were taken "at international level against those who go on killing, bombarding, starving, besieging cities and so on."

The United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday Serb fighters were keeping it out of the besieged town of Gorazde where up to 20 people were dying daily from lack of food and medicines.

Spokeswoman Sylvania Foa told Reuters that the UNHCR was holding discussions with the Serbs outside Gorazde, the last large town held by Bosnian Muslims in the east of the former Yugoslav Republic.

"We have not been able to negotiate entry into the town. Our reports say from 15 to 20 people are dying daily from hunger and lack of medical treatment," Ms. Foa said.

The UNHCR needed to get a mission into Gorazde to evaluate humanitarian needs before sending a full relief convoy.

Ms. Foa said the Gorazde fighting added urgency to an international conference on the refugee crisis in the former Yugoslavia called by UNHCR chief Mrs. Sadako Ogata and due to open in Geneva on July 29.

Meanwhile, NATO warships entered the Adriatic Sea Thursday to monitor compliance with a U.N. embargo on Yugoslavia, an alliance spokesman said.

The force will coordinate with patrols already under way by the Western European Union, a defence grouping of nine nations.

The fleet will question ships about their cargo, but its mandate does not permit commanders to stopping ships or boarding vessels believed destined for Yugoslavia.

The U.N. sanctions are aimed at pressuring Yugoslavia, now consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, to halting warfare in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.



A United Nations force of Canadian guards Sarajevo Airport

Havel to resign Monday - agency

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told parliament Friday he would resign next Monday, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CSTK) reported.

Mr. Havel stated his intention in a letter to the parliament, it said.

The agency, quoting presidential spokesman Michael Zantovsky, said Mr. Havel told the legislature that he would resign on Monday at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT).

The letter of resignation was delivered to Filip Sedivy, first deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly.

Mr. Zantovsky told CSTK Mr. Havel would explain the reasons for his decision in a speech on Czechoslovak Television of Friday evening.

Mr. Zantovsky himself was not immediately available for comment.

Meanwhile the parliament of Slovakia Friday declared the sovereignty of Czechoslovakia's poorer eastern republic, taking a major step toward the likely breakup of the 74-year-old state.

"By this declaration, the Slovak National Council declares the sovereignty of the Slovak Republic as a basis for the sovereign state of the Slovak nation," parliament said.

It said approved by a margin of 113 to 24 in the 150-seat parliament as each individual deputy was called upon to stand and declare his vote. There were 10 abstentions and three deputies were absent.

Applause rang out in parliament at the completion of the roll call.

On Wednesday, as the parliament approved a government programme calling for sovereignty, Vice Chairman Augustin Ma-

rian Huska said: "Slovaks have waited for a thousand years for this opportunity. We have no time to wait longer."

The declaration has little legal significance, but is seen as another step on the road toward the dissolution of the union formed in 1918 on the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Populist Premier Vladimir Meciar and his Movement for a Democratic Slovakia intend to follow it with the adoption of a separate Slovak constitution and then a referendum on future relations with the more numerous and prosperous Czechs.

Slovaks make up about 5 million of the country's 15 million people.

The Czech lands to the west have been industrialised far longer. In contrast, Slovakia is more rural and saddled with inefficient Communist-era industry.

S. African labour, business try to avert strike

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African labour and business leaders held urgent talks Friday to try to avert a general strike.

The talks follow a decision by the U.N. Security Council Thursday to send an envoy to South Africa to explore what role it could play in restarting democracy talks and ending spiralling violence.

The SACCOLA Employers' Group and the 1.3-million-strong COSATU labour federation were seeking to formalise an unprecedented draft accord that could call off the strike in return for business support for pro-democracy demands.

They have been struggling all week to canvas affiliates on a

proposal for a voluntary shutdown of business on Aug. 3 instead of a possibly longer, all-out stoppage.

The strike is the centre-piece of a rolling mass action campaign for majority rule — launched with Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) — which includes plans for occupations of factories, police stations and state buildings.

Officials from COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions) and SACCOLA (South African Coordinating Committee on Labour Affairs) said there was resistance from some members to a deal and they would probably not reach one Friday.

"I think we will need more time. We're still in the process of

consulting," a COSATU spokesman said.

South Africa's major parties — except the right-wing Conservative Party — have welcomed the U.N. initiative which urges President F.W. de Klerk to take measures to end the violence that has killed 6,000 blacks two years of apartheid reforms.

The ANC last month called off 19-party talks on a multi-racial constitution, accusing De Klerk of clinging to power and complicity in the violence.

COSATU said it would cooperate with any mission to South Africa. But it called for international intervention to go beyond fact-finding in the violence which it blames on the white government.

The ruling National Party said in a statement that active U.N. monitoring could help defuse the violence and show the government was not responsible. It urged the ANC to return to negotiations.

Political observers say the Security Council resolution could help the government and ANC save face and return to negotiations.

Foreign Minister P.W. Botha Thursday attributed much of the violence to ethnic and political battles among blacks.

But he made clear his government was ready to bargain and offered Mr. Mandela a package to resolve outstanding differences including the fate of political prisoners.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgia denies deaths in shooting

MOSCOW (R) — Unidentified gunmen in the Georgian capital Tbilisi opened fire on a Russian army jeep on Friday but two were quickly captured, a spokesman for the Georgian Interior Ministry said. Spokesman Valiko Gogolashvili withdrew an earlier statement that 2 Russian soldiers had been killed and a third injured in the shooting, saying later it had been based on unverified information. Reuters reported his first account of the incident. Mr. Gogolashvili said a Georgian police officer was injured as he detained two of the four gunmen. He said one Russian soldier was also injured. "We are investigating the case and we have arrested some of the attackers," Mr. Gogolashvili said. "We do not exclude that this was an effort to seize weapons."

India's Rao survives no confidence vote

NEW DELHI (R) — The minority government of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao survived an opposition vote of no-confidence in parliament Friday. It won 267 votes against 215 for the opposition, with 10 abstentions, the speaker announced. A total of 492 members were present in the Lok Sabha, or Lower House of Parliament, which has a current strength of 535 members.

U.S. to cut nuclear tests

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration has told Congress it plans to reduce U.S. underground nuclear tests to a minimum but has rejected calls to suspend them. In a letter obtained by Reuters, administration officials also dismissed claims that a continuation of U.S. testing would hinder American efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons around the world. The House of Representatives earlier voted 237-167 to suspend nuclear tests for one year and a majority of the Senate has come out in favour of the proposal. Russia and France have both suspended testing. But National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft wrote to Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn: "A modest but effective nuclear testing programme remains essential to ensure the safety and reliability of our deterrent forces."

1 dies in U.K. channel ferry fire

LONDON (R) — Fire broke out Friday in the engine room of a ferry crowded with more than 1,000 holidaymakers in the English Channel and one crew member died of smoke inhalation. The blaze was brought swiftly under control. A coastguard official said the vessel was disabled and drifting. Owners Britany Ferries said one crew member had died but there were no injuries to passengers. Rescue services were scrambled after the ferry Quiberon, carrying 1,124 passengers and 243 cars and which was going from the southern port of Plymouth to Roscoff in northern France, after the blaze broke out.

Russia urges sanctions against Estonia

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament called Friday for temporary sanctions against Estonia, saying the Baltic republic was discriminating against its large Russian-speaking minority. Deputies passed a resolution saying that if "acts of terrorism against Russian citizens" continued, Moscow should also consider suspending a January 1991 treaty between the two sides which acts as the legal basis of mutual relations. The resolution said some of Estonia's actions since the treaty was signed were "blatant violations of the articles of the agreement and threaten to create inter-ethnic conflicts." Russian hardliners have been

making increasingly militant comments on the need to protect the millions of Russian-speakers in the former Soviet republics. The resolution was certain to raise fears in the three Baltic republics that Russia might be tempted to intervene.

Mongolia chooses pro-reform premier

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia's ruling party has chosen a pro-market reformer, Punsagin Jasray, to be the country's new prime minister. Diplomats said the 50-year-old economist, elected late on Thursday, would inject new life into Mongolia's efforts to dismantle its centrally-planned economy. He replaces Dashryn Byambasuren, who pulled out of the election. Mr. Jasray was the favourite for the job among the leadership of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), but until Thursday he had ruled out running for election. His last official post was as head of the now-disbanded State Planning Commission from 1985 to 1990. A total of 147 delegates to a special party plenum elected Mr. Jasray by a narrow margin over current Deputy Prime Minister Choyjilsurenjiny Purevdorj in a second round of voting. Exact figures were not available.

Pope on the road to recovery

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul Friday appeared to be making an exceptional recovery from major surgery to remove a benign tumour from his intestine earlier this week. Cardiologist Attilio Maseri painted a glowing portrait of the 72-year-old Pontiff's condition after checking his heart functions Thursday evening. "He is doing really really fine. He got out of bed twice today. He heard mass while sitting down. His heart and blood pressure are fine," Dr. Maseri said. "There is no problem. This is remarkable for a man his age only a day after major surgery." The Pope made a spectacular recovery from emergency surgery 11 years ago, after a Turkish gunman shot and almost killed him.

1 dies in Seville opera house accident

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — A chorus member of a French opera group was killed and 39 singers and technicians were hurt when part of the set in Seville's Maestranza Opera House collapsed, officials said. The accident occurred when the Bastille Opera Company of Paris was rehearsing for a performance of Verdi's Otello as part of the Expo 92 Universal Exhibition Cultural Programme. Officials said a 39-year-old female member of the chorus was killed. All the injured were French, except for two Spaniards. A hospital spokesman said three were in serious condition with chest and pelvic injuries and broken ribs. An exterior walkway built into the set crashed down on the 60-strong chorus during a rehearsal of the first act. A theatre spokesman said the walkway was an element of the set for the opera and not an integral part of the theatre, which was built specially for Expo and inaugurated in May last year. Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo, who was to play Otello in the production, was not in the theatre at the time.

Aleutian volcano erupts

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — Bogoslof Volcano, a 331-foot (100-metre) Aleutian Island 900 miles (1,400 kilometres) southwest of Anchorage, has erupted in a plume of steam and ash, the Alaska Volcano Observatory said. Pilots reported a plume rising to 12,000 feet (3,600 metres) above sea level, observatory officials said. The volcano's last confirmed eruption was in 1931, officials said. No towns have been dusted by ash and no airline traffic has been disrupted, officials said.

Quebec opposition to reform deal grows

MONTREAL (R) — A plan to reform Canada's constitution to accommodate Quebec's political demands has run into increasing criticism in the French-speaking province and has split the federal government in Ottawa.

"It has to be reconsidered... it won't be accepted here," Quebec Deputy Premier Lise Bacon told reporters.

Widespread opposition voiced by political leaders, academics and columnists has jeopardised the package of reforms agreed to by English Canada's nine provinces.

The package took four months to hammer out and is meant to grant Quebec more autonomy while satisfying western Canada's demand for a greater say in running the country.

But the reforms will not get off the ground until Quebec Premier

Robert Bourassa agrees to return to the negotiating table that he has boycotted for two years.

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney held a six-hour cabinet meeting to resolve divisions between his ministers that further threaten the reform package.

Defence Minister Marcel Masse told reporters that Quebec had rejected a reformed Senate that would grant each province equal representation, a major western demand.

Trade Minister Michael Wilson told a news conference on Tuesday that provisions for strengthening Canada's internal market were unsatisfactory and needed reworking.

The deal's failure would hurt Mr. Mulroney, an English-speaking Quebecer who was voted into office in 1984 on a pledge to resolve the longstanding

threat by Quebec to separate from Canada.

But even Quebec politicians who do not want the province to separate from the rest of the country are saying the reforms are not good enough.

"The ambiguity in the document is making everybody unhappy," Guy Lachapelle, political science professor at Concordia University in Montreal, told Reuters.

Quebecers still have doubts about the exact wording of the clause that defines Quebec as a distinct society within Canada, the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments, and the reformed Senate.

Quebec Senator Claude Castonguay, usually a strong advocate of keeping Canada together, told the Montreal daily La Presse that he was disappointed with the proposal and it was unacceptable to Quebec.

Car bomb kills 6 in Lima suburb

LIMA (R) — A powerful car bomb rocked a wealthy Lima suburb Thursday night and elsewhere in the city about 100 Maoist guerrillas attacked police stations with machineguns and explosives, officials and news reports said.

Television news said the bomb killed at least six people and injured scores in what was described as the worst ever Shining Path guerrilla attack in the Peruvian capital. A magistrate called to the scene confirmed three dead.

Television news showed several bodies buried in the rubble of apartment building in the city's Miraflores district, where rescuers scrambled to pull survivors from the ruins of buildings gutted in the blast.

The mayor of Miraflores, Alberto Carmona, told reporters at the scene that the blast was worst in the city's history, describing it as a cowardly terrorist act.

Police also said it was the most savage attack in the capital during Peru's 12-year guerrilla campaign.

Nearly five-star hotels were badly damaged by the blast and a television reporter described the area as looking like the scene of an aerial bombing.

About 100 guerrillas attacked several police stations in southern Lima with machineguns and explosives at the same time as the bombing after cutting electricity to the area by blowing up power lines, police said.

Ten policemen and 15 civilians

were hurt in the attacks. More than 26,000 people have died in the 12-year insurgency by Peru's Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas.

The past few months, however, have seen a change in guerrilla tactics, with a switch from attacks on police stations and assassinations of political opponents to car bombings in the capital.

At least 20 people have died in car bombs, but the violence subsided after President Alberto Fujimori decreed a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew on vehicles on June 10.

In April, Mr. Fujimori assumed sweeping powers and dissolved Congress, saying it was hindering his fight to defeat guerrillas and to overhaul the economy.

Austria pushes for EC membership

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) should wrap up discussions on its plans for a United Europe as Austria and other nations can quickly join, legislators from Austria and the European Parliament said.

But a member of the European Parliament, the EC's legislature, said Austria, which applied for membership in 1989, still has a few internal policies which do not jibe with community rules.

The legislators have been meeting for two days to "get to know each other" and iron out policy disputes before official membership talks begin next year, said Almain Metten, a Dutch Socialist.

During a joint press conference with Mr. Metten, Peter Jankowitsch, an Austrian parliamentarian, said Austria is eager to join the 12-nation trade bloc.

"We want to go ahead and move towards accession as soon as possible," he said.

Membership negotiations with Austria could be held up by

Denmark's June 2 "no" vote on the EC's new treaty on economic and political union. The accord, negotiated last December, would create a common foreign and security policy and a single currency by 1999.

Foreign ministers of EC nations agreed last month not to bring new countries into the group until the treaty has been ratified by all its members.

Mr. Metten said pressure must be applied on governments "to ratify the treaty as quickly as possible, and that includes Denmark."

Mr. Jankowitsch said delay in ratifying the treaty would erode its significance and that of the EC.

"The ratification of Maastricht also means the acquisition of powerful new allies for the European Community," he said.

"Anybody who lets that opportunity go by would be weakening the community."

Mr. Jankowitsch said Austrian public opinion supports the idea

of joining the EC, but that those sentiments could change.

"Three years have gone by without much happening," he said. "I don't think you can keep Austria sitting in the waiting room much longer."

A key question for EC officials has been whether Austria will hold on to its tradition of neutrality.

But Mr. Jankowitsch said, "the definition of neutrality has been changed so much... that we feel it will not be a problem."

He said Austria's political parties and most citizens feel "a European Security system is useful and necessary."

But he said Austria's constitution would still retain clauses banning the country's participation in military alliances and the presence of foreign troops on Austrian soil.

Mr. Jankowitsch said those clauses have not kept Austria from participating in our hosting United Nations forces which are considered "not foreign."

COLUMN

Nurse infected with AIDS gets \$4.25 million award

ALBANY, New York (R) — A nurse who was infected with the AIDS virus during a struggle with a prison inmate has been awarded \$4.25 million by a U.S. court for pain and suffering. The ruling by court of claims Judge Israel Margolis, also awarded her husband \$1 million for loss of marital relations. The nurse was not identified in court records. The total award of \$5,371,192 is the largest lodged against the state of New York in a pain and suffering case. Mrs. Margolis said the nurse was infected with the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) through a contaminated intravenous needle when two state prison guards, stoupy by and refused to help her restrain an unruly prisoner. "She was only 38 years old at the time she was stuck by the needle," the judge said.

N. Zealand toilets at murder scene to be demolished

HAMILTON, New Zealand (R) — The public toilets in a New Zealand town where a British tourist was brutally murdered this year are to be demolished, local authorities said. Margery Hopegood was stabbed to death in January, a killing that shocked New Zealand and tarnished the country's image as a bastion of peace and tranquility. Hamilton City Council's community services division said the toilets where she was killed would be replaced by a park bench and a tree.

Intruder invades Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — A bare-chested man sneaked into Buckingham Palace by climbing over a perimeter wall and came close to Queen Elizabeth's private apartments before being caught, police said. The 21-year-old man, who was stripped to the waist, entered the palace through open French windows during the afternoon and reached a staircase leading to the queen's rooms before he was stopped. The queen was in residence at the time. The incident recalled a bizarre security breach at the palace in central London 10 years ago when unemployed labourer Michael Fagan got to the queen's bedside and chatted to her for 10 minutes before being apprehended. Red-faced guards then vowed to tighten up palace security. Police said the latest intruder, who was not armed, was inside the palace for only a few minutes. They said they were questioning the man, whom they did not identify, and palace security officials were holding an inquiry.

New Zealand AIDS girl gets royal birthday surprise

WELLINGTON (R) — A young New Zealand AIDS victim once

shunned by Australia has received a framed picture and handwritten card from the Princess of Wales for her 10th birthday, the girl's doctor said. Eve Van Graffhorst, whose family came to New Zealand from Australia when she was ostracised and harassed there, turns 10 Friday. Her plight received worldwide attention when she arrived in New Zealand in 1986. Her doctor, Richard Meech, said Eve was absolutely thrilled by the picture and card, which arrived unsolicited. Even has developed symptoms of full-blown AIDS after being infected by a contaminated blood transfusion at birth. She has been in and out of hospital for most of her life and doctors say she does not have long to live.

But Dr. Meech said Eve, who has tried various cocktails of drugs to hold back the disease, had been extremely well lately and had even been to school. Eve was refused entry to a local day care centre in Australia and ostracised by local children. Her family was constantly harassed by news media and her home in Sydney was besieged when her story was revealed in 1986.

5 stranded whales set free in Australia

SEAL ROCKS, Australia (AP) — Hundreds of volunteers worked through the night administering wet towels, buckets of water and soothing words to try to save 25 beached whales. The volunteers were buoyed by the successful return to sea of 15 healthier whales during the day. The giant sea mammals were reported 16 kilometres off Australia's coast, heading east to deeper waters, said National Parks and Wildlife spokesman Lawrence Orel.